

The Wells Memorial Celebration at  
Hartford, 1894. Notes on the History  
of Anaesthesia.  
Hartford, 1896.



*"I give these Books  
for the founding of a College in this Colony"*

• YALE UNIVERSITY •  
• LIBRARY •

1897

TRANSFERRED TO  
YALE MEDICAL LIBRARY

**Notes on the History  
of Anæsthesia**

---

**The Wells Memorial Celebration  
at Hartford, 1894**

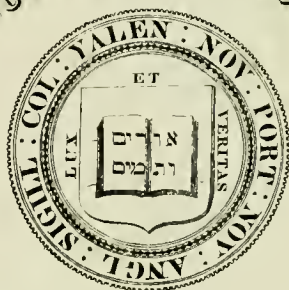
---

**Early Record of Dentists  
in Connecticut**

---

**By James McManus, D. D. S.**

YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



---

1897

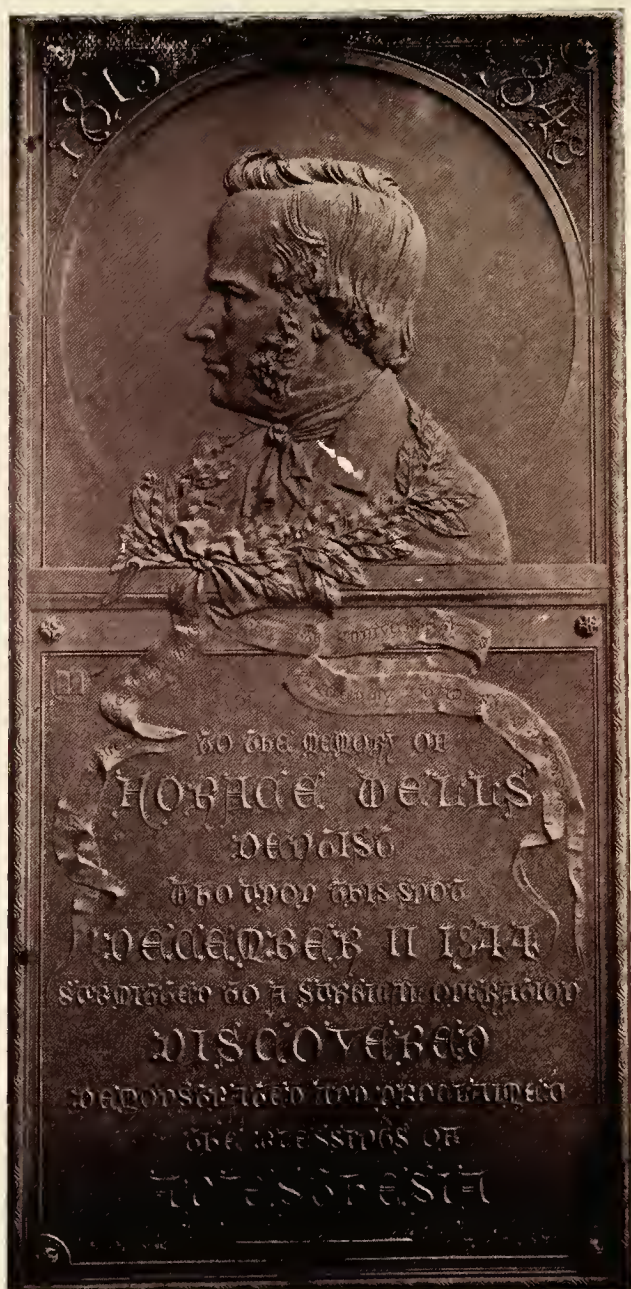
TRANSFERRED TO  
YALE MEDICAL LIBRARY











THE WELLS MEMORIAL TABLET  
 UNVEILED IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
 DECEMBER 11, 1894



**Notes on the History  
of Anæsthesia**

**The Wells Memorial Celebration  
at Hartford, 1894**

**Early Record of Dentists  
in Connecticut**

**By James McManus, D. D. S.**

**Hartford  
Printed by Clark & Smith  
1896**

Edition limited to 200 copies of which this is

No. 168.

To the Department of Medicine, Yale University  
with the compliments of

Dr. McManus

32 Pratt Street,  
Hartford, Conn.

THE History of Anæsthesia was prepared at the request of the Connecticut Valley Dental Society and was read at the union meeting with the Connecticut State Dental Association held in Hartford, in May, 1893. The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration and the placing of the Memorial Tablet was noticed at the time in the city newspapers, but the full speeches of the distinguished guests were not given to the public. The banquet was a notable one, and the remarks made by Drs. Colton, Ellsworth, Russell, Hon. Henry Barnard, LL. D., and the letters from the Hon. A. E. Burr and Dr. Samuel A. Cooley were historic and from personal knowledge of the man at the time of the discovery. The presence of the Governor-elect, the Hon. O. Vincent Coffin and his Honor, Mayor Brainard, and the addresses by President Smith of Trinity College, Dr. Henry P. Stearns; and Dr. C. C. Barker of Meriden, each and all are now put on record in a permanent form for future reference.

I have taken great pleasure in the thought that my friend, Mr. Charles T. Wells, would be pleased to have the record in book form, and, without asking his permission, most affectionately dedicate this little book to him.

The Early Record of Dentists in Connecticut will, I trust, be of some little interest to the friends who receive this book.

JAMES McMANUS, D. D. S.

October 1, 1896.



## THE HISTORY OF ANÆSTHESIA

---

THE history of modern anæsthesia has been given to the world by many writers, for both medical and literary magazines, as well as through the newspapers, in such a careless, ignorant, and untruthful manner, that it is not to be wondered at that the public is befogged and uncertain as to who should be given the credit and honor as the discoverer.

At the meeting of the Connecticut Valley Dental Society held at Greenfield, Mass., in 1892, the members passed a vote requesting me to write an historical sketch of modern anæsthesia, and in response to that invitation I prepared a concise and condensed statement, relating incidents and experiments that led up to, and the facts regarding the discovery of, anæsthesia.

In looking up the records of the centuries we find mention made of various medicines that have been used for the purpose of rendering patients insensible to pain while undergoing surgical operations.

Homer mentions the anæsthetic effects of nepenthe.

Dioscorides and Pliny allude to the use of mandragora.

Lucius Apuleius, who lived 125 A. D., and whose works were republished in the fourteenth century, says that if a man has to have a limb mutilated, sawn, or burnt, he may take half an ounce of mandragora wine, and whilst he sleeps the member may be cut off without pain or sense.

A Chinese physician who lived in the third century, named Hoatho, gave his patients a preparation of hemp, whereby they were rendered insensible during surgical operations.

The soporific effects of mandrake are mentioned by Shakespeare, as well as other draughts, the composition of which are not given.

After the lapse of centuries, Dr. B. W. Richardson, of London, procured specimens of mandragora root and had wine made from them, which he found by testing to have the properties ascribed to it by the ancient writers.

Theodoric, in a surgical treatise as early as the thirteenth century, gives directions how to prepare a "*spongia somnifera*" for inhalation before operations.

Dr. Simpson makes the statement that ether was known in the thirteenth century, that its formation was described in the sixteenth century by Valerius Cordus, and was first named "ether" by Frobenius in 1730.

A German work published in 1782 by Meissner mentions the case of Augustus, King of Poland, who underwent an amputation while insensible by the use of a narcotic.

Herodotus refers to the practice of the Scythians of inhaling the vapor of a certain kind of hemp to produce intoxication, and on September 3, 1828, M. Gerardin read to the Academy of Medicine of Paris a letter describing surgical anæsthesia by means of inhaling gases.

The ancients did know of and used the narcotics named, and possibly with all the success that is claimed by these writers; but the compounds they made, and the manner of administering them, were not generally known outside their circle or territory, and after years their use was practically abandoned. For centuries, opium and alcoholic stimulants were the only agents

that the surgeons could rely on, to help their patients endure the pain of an operation.

It is on record that the ancient Greeks, Romans, and Arabians were familiar with and employed many volatile substances that they found acted more promptly when inhaled than when taken into the stomach, and after the discovery of oxygen by Priestly and Scheele in the middle of the last century, experiments were made with gases by physicians for the cure of diseases, especially of a consumptive type. A medical institute was established at Bristol, England, in 1798, and Sir Humphry Davy was appointed superintendent. While there he made a study of the effects of nitrous oxide, or laughing gas, and after making many experiments, the results of which were published in 1800, in his volume of "Researches in Nitrous Oxide Gas," he states that April 11, 1799, he made his first inspiration of pure nitrous oxide gas, and for a year after he made an exhaustive study of the gas, and also many experiments with it, both on himself, and medical and other friends. He states on page 276 that one day while suffering pain, caused by cutting a wisdom tooth, he found that while breathing gas he got relief from pain. He also says that he once imagined that the pain was more severe after the experiment than before. On the last page but one of his book he made this suggestion: "As nitrous oxide gas appears capable of destroying physical pain it may probably be used to advantage during surgical operations, in which no great effusion of blood takes place."

The closing paragraph in his book states: "That pneumatic chemistry in its application to medicine is an art in infancy; weak, almost useless, but apparently possessed of capabilities of improvement. To be ren-



dered strong and mature, she must be nourished by facts, strengthened by exercise, and cautiously directed in the application of her powers by rational scepticism." Many of the famous surgeons of Europe must have been more or less familiar with his published work, yet there is no record that any surgeon dared to act on his suggestion or that anyone had confidence enough in his statement to advise any sufferer to do so. Sir Humphry Davy lived for many years after the publication of his book, attaining both wealth and distinguished honors, and it is only fair to presume that he did not even think that he had made a great discovery, for if he had, he certainly would have put it to a trial.

The anxiety that oppressed the surgeon was in no way lessened by the suggestion of Sir Humphry Davy and the dreaded operating day at the hospital often taxed the moral and physical courage of the surgeon to a greater degree than it did the agonized yet hopeful patient that awaited the operation. It was only a few years previous to 1844, that the celebrated French surgeon, Velpeau, published the following hopeless statement in his work on surgery : "To avoid pain under incisions is a chimera, which is no longer pursued by anyone. A cutting instrument and pain in operative surgery are two words which never present themselves separately to the mind of the patient ; and of which he must of necessity admit the inevitable association."

This statement was accepted by many as authoritative and final ; and the few, who still hoped that some agent would yet be found that would lessen the horrors of surgical operations, were looked upon by the majority of surgeons as idle dreamers ; and for this reason, every surgeon was ambitious to rank as a rapid operator. "The quicker the surgeon, the greater the surgeon,"

was the professional and popular belief during the first half of the present century.

Fortunately the number of severe surgical cases are comparatively few, while we all know that every member of the human family, sooner or later, must submit to having one or more teeth extracted. As the demands for dental operations were of daily occurrence, the dental practitioner had constant evidence that all patients showed more or less fear and dread of the operation, and the great need for some safe agent to give relief, was constantly impressed on the mind of the dentist.

We have the testimony of Linus P. Brockett, M. D., of Hartford, Connecticut, that in the summer of 1840, while conversing with Dr. Wells, he found him deeply impressed with the idea that some discovery would yet be made by which dental and other operations might be performed without any pain.

For more than forty years medical and scientific men were experimenting with the gas, the chemical and medical professors as well as popular lecturers gave entertainments with it, and always with watchfulness over their subjects for fear that in their excitement they might injure themselves, which they not infrequently did, and were not conscious of at the moment; and all these years the onlookers and lecturers could not see the great blessing that laughing-gas was offering to them, and tempting some one to lift to a nobler use than that of a mere means of amusement.

Professor G. Q. Colton gave a course of lectures on chemistry and natural philosophy in Hartford early in December, 1844; to popularize as well as amuse the audiences at these lectures the exhibition of the effects of laughing-gas on willing subjects was made a special feature of the entertainments. Dr. Horace Wells, well

known in Hartford as a skilful dentist, attended with his wife the lecture given the evening of December 10, 1844. Dr. Wells inhaled the gas ; the effect not being as pleasant as his wife wished for, she reproached him on the way home for taking it and making himself ridiculous before a public assembly. Dr. Wells went to that lecture to see, hear, and learn. He inhaled the gas, and subsequently watched its effect on others.

The exciting incident to him at the evening's entertainment was when Mr. Samuel A. Cooley, a well known Hartford man, gave a lively exhibition of the effects of the gas by running and jumping about and falling, striking his legs against the wooden settees, and acting apparently perfectly unconscious of possible danger. After the effects of the gas had passed off, Dr. Wells asked him if he was not hurt, and he replied that he did not know it at the time, but on looking at his legs found them bleeding from the injuries he had received. Dr. Wells, turning to Mr. David Clark, said, "I believe a man, by taking that gas, could have a tooth extracted or a limb amputated and not feel the pain."

Before leaving the lecture hall Dr. Wells asked Mr. Colton whether one could not inhale the gas and have a tooth extracted without feeling any pain, and he replied that he had not given the subject any thought ; that he had been giving the laughing-gas for over a year and such an idea had not occurred to him, and he could not express an opinion. Dr. Wells then said that he was inclined to try the experiment on himself and have a troublesome tooth extracted if he would bring a bag of the gas to his office the next day. Late that evening Dr. Wells called on Dr. Riggs to tell him that he had attended the lecture of Professor Colton and with others had inhaled the gas, that Mr. Cooley had injured him.

self and was not conscious of it at the time, adding "if he did not feel pain, why cannot the gas be used in extracting teeth?" A long discussion followed as to whether it would be right or safe for them to make such an experiment with possible danger staring them in the face, but Dr. Wells was so confident and fearless that he agreed to take the gas and have a tooth extracted the next day if Dr. Riggs would perform the operation. As requested, the next morning Professor Colton brought a bag of the gas to the office of Dr. Wells. There were present Professor Colton, Drs. Wells and Riggs, and as onlookers a Mr. Colton and Mr. Samuel A. Cooley, the star performer at the entertainment the night previous. Dr. Wells sat down in the operating chair, took the bag into his hands and inhaled the gas until he was insensible, when Dr. Riggs extracted an upper wisdom tooth. Dr. Wells remained unconscious a short time and on recovering exclaimed, "I did not feel it so much as the prick of a pin. A new era in tooth-pulling. It is the greatest discovery ever made," and remarks of a similar nature, being, naturally, perfectly delighted with his successful experiment. The not improbable value of nitrous oxide gas, as suggested by Humphry Davy in 1800, proved a certainty December 11, 1844, when the first surgical operation was successfully performed on Dr. Horace Wells while under its influence. On that day modern anæsthesia was given to the world, and nitrous oxide gas proved to be a blessing to suffering humanity and the forerunner of all other anæsthetics.

I will read to you brief extracts from testimony given under oath before authorized officials, commencing with Professor Colton, who stated that Dr. Horace Wells came to him to learn how to prepare the gas, that he gave him full information and advised him to go to

Boston for necessary apparatus, as he could not furnish it. A few weeks after leaving Hartford he saw a paragraph in the papers announcing that Dr. Wells was extracting teeth without pain, and he stated on several occasions in connection with that paragraph how and when the discovery originated. Dr. J. M. Riggs testified that, "We were so elated by the success of this experiment that we turned our attention to the extraction of teeth by means of this agent, and continued to devote ourselves to this for several weeks almost exclusively."

Dr. E. E. Marcy testified that while a student at Amherst College he had inhaled the gas, and also the vapor of sulphuric ether, and knew that the operation and effect of these substances were nearly similar, but he did not know that one or the other would produce insensibility to pain until Dr. Wells made the announcement. At the invitation of Dr. Wells he called at his office and witnessed the gas given and a tooth extracted, the patient showing neither excitement nor the slightest consciousness of pain. Dr. Marcy then suggested to Dr. Wells the use of sulphuric ether, his impression being that it possessed all the anæsthetic properties of the gas, was equally safe, could be prepared with less trouble, was less expensive, and could always be kept on hand. Dr. Marcy said he would prepare some ether and give him some of it, and also would make a trial of it himself in a surgical case that he expected to operate on in a few days. A few days later the ether was given to the patient alluded to, and an encysted tumor the size of an English walnut was cut from his head. Dr. Wells was present, the operation was successful, and conclusively proved the anæsthetic properties of ether vapor. Dr. Wells then told of a conversation held with Dr. Riggs regarding the effects of both ether and gas,

and gave the opinion of Professor Rodgers, of Washington (now Trinity) College, that the vapor of ether was much more dangerous than that of the gas.

“At the urgent request of Dr. Wells I read what I could easily procure in relation to both articles and gave as my opinion that, as the gas was more agreeable and easy to inhale than the ether, it was, upon the whole, more safe, and equally efficacious as an anæsthetic.” Dr. P. W. Ellsworth was also asked respecting the comparative safety of nitrous oxide gas and sulphuric ether, and he gave his opinion in favor of the gas, and advised Dr. Wells to confine himself to that agent. With ample evidence to substantiate his claim, a few weeks later, in January, 1845, Dr. Wells went to Boston to make generally known and to demonstrate his great discovery. He obtained permission of the elder Dr. Warren to address his class in the medical college, and at the close of his remarks he gave the gas to a boy and extracted a tooth. The boy made an outcry and the students hissed and cried humbug, although the boy on recovering said he did not know when the tooth was drawn. The first and only trial allowed Dr. Wells was denounced as a failure. If the surgeons of the Massachusetts General Hospital or any of the medical or scientific men of Boston or the country ever knew of the suggestion made by Sir Humphry Davy, they evidently had forgotten it, or had no faith in his statement. Nor were they willing to treat seriously any attempt to investigate the anæsthetic properties of the gas.

Dr. William T. G. Morton had been a student of dentistry with Dr. Wells in 1841 and 1842, but was

---

NOTE:—Copied from *The Boston Atlas*, Wednesday morning, Oct. 23, 1844: COPARTNERSHIP NOTICE. This certifies that the Copartnership of Wells & Morton has been dissolved by mutual consent Oct. 18th, 1844.

HORACE WELLS.



living in Boston at this time, and renting an office of Dr. C. T. Jackson.

In conversation with Dr. Wells, these gentlemen both tried to discourage him, having no faith in his statements, and advised him to give up the use of the gas. Dr. Jackson, noted then as a chemist, treated the subject as lightly as did the medical students, calling it a humbug. That a dentist from a country town could appear in Boston and announce to the world that he had made such a grand discovery was not to be credited, and Dr. Wells soon learned that not one of the influential medical or scientific men in that learned city could be induced to interest themselves in investigating the properties of the gas or lend him any assistance whatever while he remained in that city. They preferred to hiss and cry humbug rather than to give Dr. Wells a second chance to prove the value of his discovery. He returned to Hartford greatly depressed and in poor health, but in a short time was able to resume his practice. During that and the following year he continued to give the gas freely, and when not able from any cause to attend to the patients, he would bring or send them to the office of Dr. Riggs to have him give the gas.

In the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* of June 18th, 1845, there was an article written by P. W. Ellsworth, M. D., of Hartford, Connecticut, on the "Modus Operandi of Medicine," in which he states that "the nitrous oxide gas has been used in a number of cases by our dentists and has been found to perfectly destroy pain and no unpleasant effects follow its use." The unjust assumption of the Boston surgeons, that he had made a complete failure in the single experiment allowed him, and their contemptuous treatment of him and his claims gave a set-back for two years to the general introduction



of surgical anæsthesia, and millions of sufferers were deprived of the use of a safe anæsthetic for nearly twenty years. At this time Hartford had no hospital or medical journal to push the introduction of this discovery, and for a time Hartford people alone realized that such a discovery had been made.

Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton, while studying dentistry, lived in Farmington, Conn., and made frequent visits to Hartford as a student to recite to Dr. Wells. He was present when Dr. Wells gave his demonstration before the surgeons and class in Boston, and had frequent talks with him while he remained in the city. During the summer of 1845, he visited Hartford and called with Dr. Wells on Dr. Riggs to talk about the gas and he wanted them to give him some and tell him how it was prepared. Dr. Wells referred him back to Dr. Jackson, who, he said, could prepare it for him, or tell him how it should be done as he knew all about it. In the summer of 1846, Miss Elizabeth Williams, of Hartford, met Dr. Morton in Stafford Springs, Conn. ; learning that he was a dentist, she told him her experience with the gas and that Dr. Wells had extracted a tooth for her on the 6th of March, 1845. He asked her about the effect and operation of the gas, and gave no intimation to her that he had any knowledge of the gas, or any other anæsthetic. Drs. Wells, Riggs and Terry continued to give the gas in their practice with success, and they were greatly surprised, when they learned that Drs. Jackson and Morton were heralded in the Boston papers, in the fall of 1846, as the discoverers and inventors of a compound which they stated, by breathing into the lungs, induced so deep a slumber as to enable them to perform the most painful surgical operations with entire unconsciousness on the part of the patient. Dr. Morton made

his so-called discovery September 30th, 1846, when he extracted a tooth for Mr. Eben. Frost, while he was under the influence of his pretended compound.

He made known the result of his experiments to Dr. Jackson, and they found, as Drs. Marcy and Wells, of Hartford, had demonstrated nearly two years earlier, that by inhaling the vapor of sulphuric ether it would produce unconsciousness, and surgical operations could be performed without pain while under its influence. Soon after he called on Dr. Warren, who arranged for him to test his compound on the 16th of October, when he made his first experiment at the hospital in a surgical case. Boston surgeons were at last convinced that anæsthesia had been discovered, and Boston men were the discoverers. The managers of the Massachusetts General Hospital were now ready to claim for their institution the honor and credit of first demonstrating this great fact to the world, and Boston surgeons, Boston newspapers, and the public, were now very much interested and only too ready and anxious to assist the assumed discoverers in introducing their pretended discovery, and advising its use in general surgery.

Dr. Morton wrote to Dr. Wells, October 19, telling him of his discovery, stating that he had patented it, and wishing to know if he would not like to visit New York and sell rights to use it. Dr. Wells replied to that letter, October 20, that he would be in Boston soon, and he and his wife took an early train the Saturday after, arriving in Boston about midday. After dinner he called on Dr. Morton, remaining with him about two hours. On his return Mrs. Wells asked him if Dr. Morton had discovered anything new, and he replied, "No; it is my old discovery, and he does not know how to use it." He said he perceived what it was on

entering his room ; he knew it was nothing but ether. On being asked if he would assist in selling his patent rights, he replied, " No, he would have nothing to do with him."

Dr. Wells and wife returned home on the following Monday.

The statement made in the letter of October 19, to Dr. Wells, that he had patented his compound, was not true, and at the interview a few days later, in Boston, it did not occur to him that Dr. Morton intended to deprive him of the credit of the original discovery, but that he did claim the discovery and application of a new and more convenient agent. The possible money value that might accrue to them from the vigorous pushing of the discovery set the doctor and dentist to figuring out futures. They decided to apply for a patent, which the Patent Office records say was done in the names of Drs. C. T. Jackson and W. T. G. Morton, October 27, 1846 ; but before the patent was granted, Dr. Jackson, fearing he might be censured or even expelled from the Massachusetts Medical Society if he took out a patent, made an assignment, which apparently gave to Dr. Morton all his right, title, and interest in the then assumed invention, but for which act he obligated Dr. Morton to pay him ten per cent. of all he made out of it, and later on through his counsel, he demanded twenty-five per cent. of all the profits both at home and abroad, which Dr. Morton refused to give.

The patent was granted November 12, 1846. Circulars were printed with the names of Drs. Jackson and Morton as the discoverers and inventors of a compound that later proved to be the well-known fluid sulphuric ether, and they were distributed broadcast. Agents were sent out to sell rights. The doctor, dentist, or

anybody, qualified or not, who would pay the price, could buy the right to use this wonderful and powerful agent.

The scale of prices being, for cities of over one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, *two hundred* dollars: fifty thousand and under, *one hundred and fifty* dollars: cities under five thousand, *thirty-seven* dollars, for a term of seven years.

The following advertisement was published in the *Boston Evening Traveler* of November 29, 1846, signed by Drs. N. C. Keep and Wm. T. G. Morton :

“The subscribers having associated themselves in the business of dentistry, would respectfully invite their friends to call on them at their rooms, No. 19 Tremont Row. They confidently believe that the increased facilities which their united experience will afford them of performing operations with elegance and dispatch, and the additional advantage of having them performed without pain, by the use of the fluid recently invented by Drs. Jackson and Morton, will not only meet the wishes of their former patients, but secure to them additional patronage.”

This was a unique appeal to the Boston citizens for patronage, equaling, if it does not far surpass, many of the advertisements that are to be seen in the newspapers of our day.

The physician or dentist that indulges in a much less flagrant style of advertising to-day is barred out of both medical and dental societies.

Soon after the extraction of the tooth for Mr. Frost by Dr. Morton, Dr. Jackson sent a letter to a friend in Paris, France, giving the particulars of his pretended discovery, stating that he had persuaded a dentist in Boston to administer the vapor of sulphuric ether to his patients

when they wished to have teeth extracted, and they suffered no pain during the operation; and later a second letter, stating that it had been used in the Massachusetts General Hospital with great success. These facts he wished his friend to communicate to the Paris Academy of Sciences. Soon after the letters were sent there was a falling out between the Boston discoverers. The public then learned from their controversy of the bitter feeling existing, and found, also, that each one denied that the other had any just claim for the credit of the discovery.

The Paris Medical Institute, in response to the letters sent by Dr. Jackson, and with the knowledge only of his claim and that of Dr. Morton, awarded to each one the sum of two thousand five hundred francs; to Dr. Jackson for the discovery of the principle, and to Dr. Morton for the application of it. The Institute at the time knew nothing of the claims of Dr. Wells. While the controversy was going on so bitterly in Boston, Dr. Wells decided, partly on account of his health, to take a trip to Europe, and while there to interest, if possible, and to present his claim as the discoverer of anæsthesia to the English and continental surgeons. While in Paris, he made the acquaintance of the American dentist, Dr. Brewster, through whose good influence the subject was again and properly brought before the French Academy of Medicine. On Dr. Wells' return to this country he found the influence of medical and scientific men, the professional journals, and newspapers were all in favor of sulphuric ether, and the tide running in favor of the claims of Drs. Jackson and Morton.

Late in the year 1847 a new agent, chloroform, was introduced by Professor James Y. Simpson, M. D., of Edinburgh, Scotland, and that for a time seemed likely

to supplant sulphuric ether. Dr. Wells gave the nitrous oxide gas on January 1, 1848, to Henry A. Goodale, and Dr. P. W. Ellsworth amputated his leg. Also, January 4, gave the gas to Mrs. Gabriel, and Dr. S. B. Beresford removed a fatty tumor from her right shoulder. Dr. Wells later in the month went to New York to visit the hospitals and to urge his claims with the surgeons in that city. The worry, annoyance and injustice done him by the rival claimants, increased by the experiments he was making with different anæsthetic agents, brought on serious mental disturbance, and under these influences, disheartened and despondent, he put an end to his sufferings, January 24, 1848.

The following letter arrived soon after his death from his friend Dr. Brewster, dated

“ PARIS, January 12, 1848.

“ MY DEAR WELLS,—I have just returned from a meeting of the Paris Medical Society, where they have voted that to Horace Wells, of Hartford, Connecticut, United States of America, is due all the honor of having first discovered and successfully applied the use of vapors or gases whereby surgical operations could be performed without pain. They have done even more, for they have elected you an honorary member of their Society. This was the third meeting that the Society had deliberated upon the subject. On the two previous occasions Mr. Warren, the agent of Dr. Morton, was present and endeavored to show that to his client was due the honor, but he, having completely failed, did not attend the last meeting. The use of ether took the place of nitrous oxide gas, but chloroform has supplanted both, yet the first person, who first discovered and performed surgical operations without pain, was Horace Wells, and to the last day of time must suffering humanity bless his name.



“Your diploma and the vote of the Paris Medical Society shall be forwarded to you. In the interim you may use this letter as you please.

“Believe me ever truly yours,

“BREWSTER.”

Drs. Jackson and Morton from the start had persistently stated that the nitrous oxide gas was a failure ; that it was not an anæsthetic ; and they also as persistently ignored the fact that Drs. Wells and Marcy had used sulphuric ether with success, but had decided, in consultation with Dr. Ellsworth, that as the gas was more pleasant and agreeable to take, as well as less dangerous, it would be better to continue its use in dental operations. The death of Dr. Wells left the field open for them, and as the new agent, chloroform, was making a very successful record, it soon became so popular that the use of gas was given up and by many forgotten.

Hartford had no medical school, hospital surgeons of national reputation, or professional journals to compete with Boston, that had all these advantages, while the great influence of Boston surgeons, Boston journals, and Boston wealth were freely given to aid the Boston claimants in their attempt to rob Dr. Wells of the honor and credit of his discovery. Boston influence aided them in their successful appeals to the rich and the profession for remuneration, and Boston money helped them in wining and dining a memorable lobby influence in its attempts to get through Congress a bill granting them one hundred thousand dollars for the use of their pretended discovery by the army and navy. Through the efforts of the Hon. Truman Smith, United States senator, and the members of Congress from Connecticut the passage of this bill was defeated.



Soon after the introduction of chloroform, and the death of Dr. Wells, the use of the gas was abandoned.

The surgeons and public were soon convinced that chloroform and ether were uncertain and dangerous agents. The frequent deaths reported, and the ill effects that often followed their use, caused a feeling of dread on the part of both patient and operator so that comparatively few cared or dared to risk taking or giving either of them. From 1848 until 1862, the longing for a safe anæsthetic was universal. Again, Professor Colton appeared before the public as a lecturer and exhibitor of laughing gas. In his lectures he related the history of the discovery of anæsthesia by Dr. Wells, and after his lecture in New Britain in 1862, he gave instructions to Dr. R. C. Dunham, and he introduced the use of gas in his practice there, and in Hartford, and at a private entertainment to a specially invited party in New Haven, June, 1863, he related the history of the discovery of anæsthesia by Dr. Wells.

Our old friend, and for many years treasurer of this Society, Dr. J. H. Smith was present, and then offered to try the gas again if Professor Colton would administer it. The professor said he would be very glad to do it, as he wished to again demonstrate what could be done with the gas. Their first patient was an old lady, for whom they extracted seven teeth ; after recovering from the effects of the gas, she was so pleased with the result that she allowed Professor Colton to announce to his next audience her name and that she had had seven teeth extracted without pain, and without any ill or unpleasant effects from the gas. In three weeks and two days from that time Drs. Smith and Colton extracted over three thousand teeth.

Their success induced Professor Colton to abandon

the exhibition business and to establish the Colton Dental Association in Cooper Institute, New York, devoted exclusively to the extraction of teeth with the gas.

In a pamphlet published by Dr. Colton in 1866 he says, "Whatever credit I deserve in connection with this matter is derived from the fact that I revived the use of gas, after it had been condemned, dead and forgotten as an anæsthetic from 1848 to 1862. In this revival and demonstration of the value of the gas as an anæsthetic is not the world practically indebted to me for its use? If I had not revived it, by whom would it have been done? That poor Wells failed to convince the world of its value does not militate in the slightest degree against the honor he deserves as the discoverer of anæsthesia. He did all that a man could do under the circumstances."

Dr. Colton's great faith, and the co-operation and good work done by Dr. Smith, encouraged the dental profession to again take up the use of the gas, and from that time on its use has been general all over the world. It is only those who have had to undergo severe surgical operations that can fully realize what a great blessing the discovery and introduction of anæsthesia is to the world, and it is only the surgeons now living that were in practice over fifty years ago, that can fully appreciate and realize the blessing this discovery is to the profession.

Several years after Dr. Wells had proclaimed and demonstrated his discovery, Dr. Crawford W. Long, of Georgia, discovered—that he had discovered—as early as 1842, the properties of Sulphuric Ether, and had performed an operation on a patient while under its influence. This information was not given to the public until December, 1849. He says, in referring to his delay in making the fact known: "I leave it with an enlight-

ened medical profession, to say whether or not my claim to the discovery of anæsthesia is forfeited by not being presented earlier; and with the decision which may be made, I shall be content." It is possible that many surgeons in different parts of the world, at nearly the same time, or in the remote past, may, with the aid of some agent, have performed surgical operations painlessly as claimed by Dr. Long, but failing to publicly announce their success, the world gained no benefit. Dr. Wells discovered, demonstrated and proclaimed the fact at once; and then within one month's time, traveled over one hundred miles to Boston to make it generally known. The public should not be allowed to forget that the simple, honest Christian desire of this dentist, was to give his discovery to all, to be "free as the air we breathe." The motive that actuated Drs. Jackson and Morton, when they put their assumed invention on the market, was to get money. Its commercial value was its dominant idea, and it was well worked up. Dr. Jackson sneaking behind the cover of an assignment of his rights, in order to hold his membership in the Medical Society, demanded twenty-five per cent. of all the profits, both at home and abroad, from Dr. Morton. This resulted in a Kilkenny fight, each denouncing the other as a fraud. A bitter controversy followed, each claimant having friends enough to furnish the Medical Journals and newspapers with lively reading for years after.

Eighteen years after the death of Dr. Wells, there appeared in the *New York Medical and Surgical Reporter* of January 6, 1866, a report made by Dr. J. M. Carnochan, chief of staff in the New York State Emigrant Hospital, of three surgical cases that he performed, the patients being put under the influence of nitrous oxide

gas by Dr. Colton, and February 10 of the same year he reported four more operations upon adults, making in all seven successful capital operations under the influence of the gas. After the first operations he said, "I have no hesitation in stating that the nitrous oxide gas as an anæsthetic is far superior to either chloroform or ether; the operation being attended by no nausea or sickness, and without the dangerous effects often incident to chloroform and ether. It is not improbable that had Wells lived and had the boldness to follow up his early successful experiments, chloroform and ether would never have been thought of as anæsthetics." In Dr. Carnochan's second report, giving a *résumé* of seven capital operations under the influence of nitrous oxide gas, he says, "I have also during this time used chloroform and ether in many operations, and my opinion in regard to the superiority of the nitrous oxide gas as an anæsthetic is still unchanged. I believe, however, that there is great room for improvement in the mode of administration of the gas."

The success attending the revival of the use of the gas, and the testimony given by the surgeons in New York and elsewhere, was simply a repetition of the success attained by Dr. Wells while he was alive and able to attend to his practice in Hartford.

The General Assembly of Connecticut in 1847 passed resolutions in favor of Dr. Wells as the discoverer of anæsthesia, and declared that he was entitled to the favorable consideration of his fellow-citizens, and to the high station of a public benefactor. The Court of Common Council of the city of Hartford passed resolutions to the same effect. The physicians and surgeons of the city united in a testimonial declaring their belief in the justice of the claims of Dr. Wells. The Paris Medical

Society, January, 1848, voted that to Dr. Horace Wells, of Hartford, Connecticut, is due all the honor of having first discovered anæsthesia.

The testimony of Professor Valentine Mott, M. D., of New York, December 20, 1852, is that Dr. Wells is entitled to the credit and honor of the discovery. Professor R. D. Mussey, of Cincinnati, Ohio, in a letter to the Hon. Truman Smith, United States senator from Connecticut, December 24, 1852, says, "I have long regarded Dr. Wells as entitled to the credit, and to the pecuniary award if any such consideration is to be made, for the invaluable discovery of anæsthesia."

Dr. C. H. Haywood, who was house surgeon in the Massachusetts General Hospital at the time Dr. Morton administered his pretended compound there, in a letter to United States senator Truman Smith, concludes with these words: "But before all let full and ample justice be done to that noble genius which first conceived the grand idea which has been the basis of all the experiments and the father of all the discoveries. To the spirit of Dr. Horace Wells belongs the honor of having given to suffering humanity the greatest boon it ever received from science."

In the early days it was difficult to prepare the gas in large quantities or to keep it on hand any length of time. Soon after the revival of its use in 1862, many improvements were made in apparatus for making gas, and, later, when the process was so perfected that dealers could furnish the gas to the profession in liquid form, in iron cylinders holding from one hundred to fourteen hundred gallons to be used from as desired, without danger of waste, loss of power or purity, all the former objections to its use were removed.

Professor S. D. Gross, of Philadelphia, some years

ago, when speaking before the American Medical Association, said that "Dentistry is the most important specialty in medicine: many people come into the world, and go out of it, who never require the services of other specialists; but no child is born who does not sooner or later require the services of a dentist." Terse and true as this statement is, equally true is the statement that modern anæsthesia, in all the varied modes of its administration, is undeniably the result of a dentist's heroic experiment and discovery. It is also sadly true that it was two years after the discovery, and after repeated successful operations in the hands of Hartford dentists, before Boston surgeons could be induced to accept the fact that an anæsthetic had been discovered.

Dr. James Y. Simpson, of Edinburgh, Scotland, was the only man connected with the introduction of anæsthesia who had a remarkably fortunate life. He was eminently successful in his profession, acquired wealth, was created a baronet, and was probably better known all over the world for a while, than any one else connected with the discovery. The last professional article he gave to the public was written by dictation, while on his sick bed, in reply to a bitter and unjust attack made upon him by Dr. Jacob Bigelow, of Boston. It was published in the Boston Gynæcological Journal for May, 1870. He writes:

"An American dentist works out to its practical results, the suggestion published in England half a century before, by Sir Humphry Davy, and which you seem to wish to efface from anæsthetic records; and he travels a long distance to place the important result before the Medical School at Boston, and some surgeons at the Massachusetts Hospital. There is a slip in the single experiment allowed him. He is spurned and hooted away. In doing this, the Medical School of Boston thus delays the whole subject of artificial surgical anæsthesia



for a couple of years. Was not the Medical School of Boston, then, in your violent language, 'chargeable with the continuance of operative tortures,' for that period much more than Sir Humphry Davy? Did not your school stamp out—and thus prevent for two years more the most beneficent discovery which has blessed humanity since the primeval days of paradise?"

Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson says in his recent monograph, "The Mastery of Pain":

"It was fortunate that ether came in before chloroform: because if chloroform had come in first, the number of deaths from it would probably have put a stop to anæsthesia at once."

It is infinitely more fortunate that gas came in before ether, for the demands for its use are more urgent and general, and the deaths from it do not number more than one in over a million. There is no doubt if Dr. Wells had been a resident of Boston, an M. D., and a member of the staff of the Massachusetts General Hospital, his discovery in 1844 would have been quickly accepted. As a stranger and a dentist, his claim as a discoverer and the evidence he had to sustain it, as well as the prediction made by Sir Humphry Davy many years before as to the probable properties of the gas, could not awaken enough interest in the minds of the stupid, stubborn, and jealous men that he appeared before to induce them to make another trial of the gas. They condemned it as a humbug, and suffering humanity was deprived of the blessing of an agreeable and safe anæsthetic, for over twenty years.

The record is now well up in the millions of successful operations made while under the influence of the gas, with evidence accumulating daily, all over the world, that the gas is a safe and reliable anæsthetic, and with abundant testimony to prove that Dr. Wells was the first to submit to a surgical operation while under its



influence. These facts cannot be blotted out by the efforts of magazine writers that either ignorantly or wilfully ignore, as does the inscription on the ether monument that stands in the public garden in the city of Boston, the claims of Dr. Horace Wells.

The monument in Boston commemorates the discovery of anæsthesia by inhalation of ether as first proved to the world at the Massachusetts General Hospital, October, 1846. It is a beautiful work of art, with bas-relief pictures that tell to the onlooker the great blessing that some one had given to suffering humanity. The inscription tells an untrue story, and the stranger seeks in vain for the name of the world's great benefactor.

On Bushnell Park, in Hartford, there stands a monument erected by the State of Connecticut and the city and citizens of Hartford, commemorating this great discovery of anæsthesia first given to the world in Hartford, in 1844, with the name inscribed and a portrait statue of Dr. Horace Wells, to whom alone belongs the honor of its discovery, and who gave it to the world to be as free as the air we breathe.

It will be remembered that Dr. Carnochan was decided in his opinion as to the value of the gas in surgical operations. He reported in January and February, 1866, seven successful operations, one case being the removal of an entire breast and the glands of the axilla, for cancer. The patient was a lady in feeble health, suffering from disease of the throat and lungs and general debility. In thirty-five seconds from the time she began inhaling the gas she was in a profound anæsthetic sleep. She remained insensible for sixteen consecutive minutes, until the operation was completed, and, in forty seconds from the time the bag was removed, awoke to consciousness without nausea, sickness, or vomiting.

With the added testimony of leading surgeons in New York, that the gas was the safest of all the anæsthetics, and with all the improvements for administering it, as also the certainty of being able to get and keep it on hand pure, is it not strange, to state it mildly, that surgeons should so persistently ignore the gas, and continue to give chloroform, ether, or both in combination, when about to perform simple operations, despite the fatal record that has so often given publicity to that class of cases? Dentists have proved the value of nitrous oxide. In years to come, it is barely possible, the surgeons may again wake up to its value and safety.

**The Wells Memorial Celebration**  
**in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the**  
**Discovery of Anaesthesia,**  
**Held in Hartford, Connecticut,**  
**December 10th and 11th, 1894.**



## THE WELLS MEMORIAL CELEBRATION

---

AT the 30th annual meeting of the Connecticut State Dental Association, held in Hartford, May 16th, 1894, the following motion was carried :

“In view of the fact that December 11th will be the semi-centennial of the discovery, by Dr. Horace Wells, of Anæsthesia, moved that a committee of three be appointed to consider the advisability of celebrating that anniversary in some appropriate manner and, if necessary, they be empowered to call a meeting of this Association at that time.

The President, Dr. C. C. Barker, appointed as the committee, Drs. Geo. L. Parmele, Civilion Fones and James McManus.

In the “Bulletin” of the C. S. D. A. for June, 1894, the committee made an announcement as follows :

“Your committee appointed at the last meeting to arrange for a fitting celebration of the Discovery of Anæsthesia in December, 1844, propose to erect a memorial tablet to mark the spot where the discovery was made and where the first operation was performed under an anæsthetic. As this discovery was made by Horace Wells, a dentist, it seems fitting that the money needed should be contributed by dentists only. We ask you, therefore, to contribute, and will you kindly fill out the enclosed blank and return it at once to Dr. Jas. McManus, Treasurer of the Committee, 32 Pratt St., Hartford. In addition to the unveiling of the tablet, a banquet, with speeches from prominent men connected with the event we propose to celebrate, and a memorial meeting of our Association are contemplated.”

GEO. L. PARMELE, *Chairman.*  
CIVILION FONES,  
JAS. MCMANUS, *Treasurer.*

The following announcement was sent out in November :

### NOTICE . . .

The Wells Memorial Committee can report, that without bringing a particular financial strain on any one the success of the tablet is assured and it will be placed in position on Dec. 10th.

It has been considered that the event should not be allowed to pass without some social recognition and we have made arrangements for a banquet to be held at Habenstein's, Hartford, on Monday evening, Dec. 10th.

It is proposed to invite the Governor, the Mayor and representative men from the various professions and to have the dinner in every way worthy of the occasion. Evening dress is requested.

As it will be necessary to know in advance just how many gentlemen will be present you are advised to reply *at once* if you care to attend.

On account of the size of the room where the dinner will be held, the number must be somewhat limited and your application for seat should be sent in as *soon as possible*. No application can be considered after Dec. 1st.

Admission will be by ticket procured in advance, the cost of which will be five dollars.

GEO. L. PARMELE,	} Committee.
CIVILION FONES,	
JAS. McMANUS,	

The fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of anæsthesia by Dr. Horace Wells in this city, December 11th, 1844, was formally observed by a banquet at Habenstein's Café, Monday evening, December 10th, 1894. The banquet was given under the auspices of the Connecticut State Dental Association and was presided over by its President, Dr. Chas. P. Graham of Middletown, who also acted as the Toastmaster.

DR. CHAS. P. GRAHAM, President.

ON HIS RIGHT

Governor-elect O. Vincent Coffin.  
 Dr. G. Q. Colton, of New York City,  
 who administered the gas at the time  
 the discovery was demonstrated.  
 Pinckney W. Ellsworth, M. D., one of  
 the first surgeons to employ and  
 write of the discovery.  
 Gurdon W. Russell, M. D., fifty-seven  
 years in practice.  
 Hon. Henry Barnard, L.L. D., of the  
 Connecticut Historical Society.  
 Judge Thomas McManus, of the City  
 Court.  
 John Dwyer, M. D.  
 Mr. E. S. Woods, the Sculptor, who de-  
 signed the Wells Memorial Tablet.

ON HIS LEFT

Mr. Chas. T. Wells, son of Dr. Wells.  
 Hon. Leverett Brainard, Mayor of the  
 City of Hartford.  
 Rev. George Williamson Smith, D. D.,  
 President of Trinity College.  
 Henry P. Stearns, M. D., President of  
 Hartford Medical Society.  
 John Addison Porter, Editor of the  
*Hartford Evening Post*.  
 Dr. C. C. Barker, Meriden, President  
 Connecticut Valley Dental Society  
 and ex-President of the State Dental  
 Association.  
 Mr. Rowland Swift, President of Amer-  
 ican National Bank.

The following gentlemen were also present :

Dr. William J. Rider, Dental Com- missioner, Danbury.	Dr. F. T. Murless, Jr., Windsor Locks.
Dr. James McManus, Hartford.	Dr. A. E. Wales, New Britain.
Dr. Edward S. Gaylord, New Haven.	Dr. Henry McManus, Hartford.
Dr. R. C. Dunham, New Britain.	Dr. N. J. Goodwin, Hartford.
Dr. N. Morgan, Springfield, Mass.	Dr. Joel F. Wright, Hartford.
Dr. Geo. A. Maxfield, Holyoke, Mass.	Dr. Munroe Griswold, Hartford.
Dr. Wm. H. Rider, Danbury.	Dr. Edward Ebeile, Hartford.
Dr. E. M. Smith, Newtown.	Dr. L. C. Taylor, Hartford.
Dr. J. Tenney Barker, Wallingford.	Dr. S. L. G. Crane, Hartford.
Dr. G. M. Griswold, Manchester.	Mr. Ernst Schall, Hartford.
Dr. M. M. Maine, South Manchester.	Mr. John M. Ney, Hartford.
Dr. Alfred C. Fones, Bridgeport.	Mr. R. A. Wadsworth, Hartford.
Dr. Daniel A. Jones, New Haven.	Dr. Charles McManus, Hartford.

The divine blessing was asked by Rev. Dr. Smith, of  
 Trinity College.



## MENU.

Little Neck Clams.	SHERRY.
Consomme.	SAUTERNE.
Lobster, A La Newburg.	Cream Sauce.
Terrapin Stew.	
French Peas.	CHAMPAGNE.
Roman Punch.	CIGARETTES.
Roast Partridge.	Currant Jelly.
Asparagus, on Toast.	
Rum Omelette.	
Cream and Ices.	Cakes.
Fruit.	
Coffee.	Cheese.
	CIGARS.

After the enjoyment of the banquet, Dr. Graham called upon Hon. O. Vincent Coffin, governor-elect, who said that when he reflected in whose presence he was, and of what were their achievements, and how many there were of those to whom the world was a debtor, he felt like closing his mouth and keeping it resolutely shut. But when he reflected upon their generous hospitality, and their high standing in the community, he could do no less than to convey to them his earnest greetings. Unfortunately, other imperative duties called him elsewhere, and he regretted that he could not spend the whole evening in such congenial company. He could only leave with them his best wishes and congratulations upon the good work which they had accomplished.

DR. CHARLES P. GRAHAM :

We have come here to-night to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Discovery of Anæsthesia by

Dr. Wells, and to pay our tribute of respect. Thousands of human lives have been saved by the aid of this anæsthetic in surgical operations which otherwise would have been lost. Dr. Horace Wells, a practicing dentist of Hartford, gave this great boon to mankind. The controversy which has been going on for many years, it seems to me, has been settled beyond question.

During the early part of December, 1844, Dr. G. Q. Colton, who we have with us to-night, visited Hartford and gave an exhibition of the exhilarating effects of nitrous oxide gas. Mr. Samuel Cooley, afterwards Col. Cooley, I believe, tried the effects of the gas, but before taking it thought that he would endeavor to frighten those present. He became excited and violent, which resulted in causing some injury to his limb. Dr. Wells noticed this and asked if he felt any pain. Mr. Cooley said he did not until after the effects of the gas had worn off.

December 10th, Dr. Wells suggested to Dr. Colton to bring a bag of the gas to his office, as he desired to have a tooth extracted. Mr. Cooley was also present. Undoubtedly this was the first surgical operation ever performed by the use of anæsthesia. The claims of Drs. Morton and Jackson concerning the administering of anæsthesia and its effect time will not permit me to give. We have others present who will give you more intelligent information concerning the discovery by Dr. Wells, and prove to you that there is no question but that Dr. Wells is entitled to this honor.

The City of Hartford has honored this man both in her legislative and executive departments. The people of the United States, have honored this man through their medical and dental societies. Other countries have done the same thing.

I would like to say just one word about this time, and that is, that the members of this committee are deserving of the highest comment for their efficient work. I want to say a word about Dr. McManus, and that is, that he deserves the highest praise for his untiring efforts to make this affair a success and commemorating the fact that Dr. Horace Wells discovered this great boon to mankind.

Now, gentlemen, we have with us to-night the son of Dr. Horace Wells. (Great applause.) I think in our efforts to honor this great man and his genius we are particularly fortunate to have with us his immediate descendent, Mr. Charles T. Wells.

MR. CHARLES T. WELLS :

I have a sort of sense of feeling of kinship in any gathering of the Dental profession, and I take pride in the fact that my father was a dentist, and a Hartford dentist, and that he made the discovery which resulted in so much good to mankind.

You have a special right to celebrate this occasion, for it belongs to your profession, and to this City of Hartford, where he lived. It is a pleasure to me that after this lapse of fifty years, which I can hardly realize, that there are those living yet who knew my father intimately and are familiar with the facts, and that some of them are present here to-night. I remember my father well, although I was quite young at that time.

I remember his office. I used to go there much, for I liked to be with him. He was a man beloved by all. You have paid him honor before by your various societies, and for that honor I thank you. It means very much indeed to his only descendant.

Toastmaster then introduces Mayor Brainard.

MAYOR BRAINARD :

Mr. President and brother dentists—it seems proper that I should call you brother dentists—for I have long known some who are here to do honor to-night to a man who has done so much for humanity. It was like Morse with the telegraph, like Stevenson with the railroad, like Fulton with the steamboat, and like Edison with electric light. Dr. Wells made use of something that existed but had not been discovered.

I appreciate, and I think we all ought to do honor to him as being one man in the line of dentistry who has done something for the patient. All the others were for the dentists.

Dr. Wells, I think, is entitled to the high regard of all mankind for what he has done to ameliorate suffering. There are those here to-night who will tell you about it and we shall be very glad to listen to them.

PROF. GARDNER Q. COLTON, of New York :

Mr. President and Gentlemen :—I can say in the language of Antony that I am no orator, as the President is, but as you all know me, a plain, blunt man, for I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth, nor action, nor utterance, nor the power of speech. I only speak right on, to tell you that which you yourselves do know.

Now the story is very simple. Just fifty years ago, on the night of the 10th of December, 1844, I gave an exhibition of the amusing effects of the gas, in this city, at Union Hall.

By the way, I went into the office of the *Hartford Courant* to-day and saw my advertisement occupying a half a column of the old files of 1844.

After giving a brief lecture on the properties of the gas and its effects I invited twelve or fifteen gentlemen to come on the stage. Among these gentlemen were Dr. Wells and Mr. Samuel Cooley, afterwards called Colonel Cooley. A number of the gentlemen inhaled the gas, Dr. Wells among them. When Mr. Cooley got under the influence he began to dance and dash around and ran against some wooden settees and thereby jammed his legs. Dr. Wells said to him, "You must have hurt yourself." "O, no," said he. Well, after a while he began to feel some pain, after the effects of the gas had worn off, and then his leg began to bleed. He says, "I did not know I was running against the bench." "I did not feel a particle of pain until the effects of the gas passed off." When the audience was going out Dr. Wells came to me and said, "Why cannot a man have a tooth extracted and not feel it under the effects of the gas?" I said I did not know. "Well," said he, "I believe it can be done. Mr. Cooley did not know that he hurt himself until the effects of the gas passed off."

Said he, "I have a big molar that is decayed and I should be glad to have it pulled." The next day, on the 11th, I took a bag of the gas to his office, and I think Mr. Cooley was present, at any rate Dr. Wells sent out for a neighboring dentist, a Dr. Riggs, to come in and draw his tooth. Then the word anæsthesia had not entered his mind. I gave Dr. Wells some of the gas and Dr. Riggs took out his tooth. Wells clapped his hands and exclaimed, "It is the greatest discovery ever made. I did not feel it so much as the prick of a pin." That was the first tooth ever drawn without pain.

Dr. Wells wanted me to instruct him how to make the gas, which I did, and then I went off about my exhibition business. Dr. Wells tried it and found it suc-

cessful and then went to Boston to make the discovery known. He called upon this physician and that physician and this dentist and that dentist. Well, they all laughed at him. Had no faith whatever. Among others was his pupil, Dr. Morton. Then he got permission to address a class at college. Dr. Warren said to the class, there is a gentleman here by the name of Wells who pretends that he has found something to destroy pain. If any of you wish to remain and hear him you can do so. Well, one of the class told me that about one-half of the class did remain and at the close of his remarks he gave the gas to one of the boys. The boy hollared out, *although he said that he did not feel any pain*, but the students considered it a failure and they hissed and hurt the feelings of Dr. Wells. He returned to Hartford and used the gas all of 1845.

Now there was Bishop Brownell and his two daughters, and about thirty or forty respectable and representative citizens of Hartford who afterwards gave their depositions that during 1845 Dr. Wells administered the gas to them without unpleasant effects from it. At the end of 1845, or the beginning of 1846, Dr. Wells' health began to fail and he went to Europe, and when he got to Paris he presented his claim to the Academy of Science. The Academy honored him with the decoration of M. D., which he felt proud of. Now during his absence Dr. Morton, his former pupil, went to Dr. Jackson, knowing that Dr. Wells was an honest man and one who would not attempt to pass a humbug off on the public, to learn to make the gas. Dr. Jackson said that the gas exhilarated and made people lively and buoyant and he suggested the idea of trying ether, so Dr. Morton brought some ether and tried it on a boy. Even in the use of ether Dr. Wells ante-dated Dr. Morton by nearly two



years. Now his experiment with ether was made on the 30th of September, 1846. He gave the ether to a boy by the name of Eben Frost. He drew teeth without pain. He reported the case to Jackson. Then they instituted a series of experiments and finding it successful they applied for a patent. But the patent was delayed and Dr. Jackson being a man of science he thought probably it might turn out to be a humbug, so he takes an agreement from Dr. Morton that Morton should give him ten per cent. and then assigned his interest to him. When Dr. Wells returned to this country, to his astonishment he found that Morton had got a patent and claimed the honor of being the discoverer of anæsthesia. Then followed a very exciting discussion between Morton and Wells in the *Boston Medical Journal*. That discussion so worked on Dr. Wells that the honor was going to be taken from him that he became deranged and committed suicide. Everybody knew that he was a Christian gentleman, incapable of doing anything like that when in his right mind. No one had used the gas save Dr. Wells. Dr. Wells discovered the thing and then Morton set up the claim that nitrous oxide was not an anæsthetic at all, that you could not produce insensibility. This went on from 1848 to 1863, when I again appeared before the public as a lecturer and an exhibitor of the effects of laughing-gas. At a private entertainment given in New Haven, I told of Dr. Wells and his experience and remarked that I could never get a dentist to try it. Dr. J. H. Smith, a dentist of New Haven was present and said "I will try it if you will give the gas." While at his office next day a wealthy lady came in who had been trying to have the Doctor administer chloroform, but he would not do it unless she would bring her physician. I talked with the lady a little while and finally said she, "I will take the gas."



That afternoon I took a bag of the gas there and I administered it to her, got her pretty well under its influence, and Dr. Smith took out the tooth. The first thing she said on waking up was, "Do not go Doctor, I want to give you my thanks. You may say that I have had seven teeth extracted without pain." I did so. Then I went on with my exhibitions. I made an arrangement with Dr. Smith that I should furnish the gas and he should extract the teeth, and divide the proceeds for one week, but before the week was out we made a new arrangement and continued three weeks and two days, and extracted over three thousand teeth. Well, thinks I, this is better business than lecturing, and I determined to go to New York, and at the suggestion of Mr. P. T. Barnum, I established an institution and called it the Colton Dental Association, because my name had been so long identified with the gas.

I had three partners, making four of us, equal partners. The agreement was to divide every Saturday night. Well, on the first Saturday night we had nothing to divide. It went on for weeks and months, and took everything to pay expenses.

Drs. Hurd and Smith, partners, said we cannot leave a good business to come here. They left. Dr. John Allen, one of the parties to the partnership, did not interrupt them. Then Dr. Allen and I were the Colton Dental Association. It went along for some time, sometimes we took in \$50 to divide up Saturday night, after paying expenses, and finally Dr. Allen said to me, "here you are, slaving yourself to death for nothing. You take it all." Well, then I was the Colton Dental Association. I then moved to the Cooper Institute, and it was three weeks before I could convince the Trustees of that institution that my business was legitimate. But I finally

got the certificate of a physician and they rented me the rooms. I have been there thirty-one years. We commenced business on the 15th of July, 1863. About nine months after that, on the 4th of February, 1864, at the suggestion of the Hon. Truman Smith, I began to take the names of our patients. Got a few reams of paper, made a place for the name, residence, and number of teeth, and on the margin left a space to number the names, so I could state at any time just how many I had given gas to. The numbers have been kept regularly ever since. Before I left New York we had reached 186,500, and never had an accident from the effects of the gas. That is, I do not think there has been a death from the effects of the gas that could legitimately be ascribed to the gas. I have had all sorts of people; have given it to at least fifty with valvular disease of the heart. It has no action on the heart whatever. It increases the action of the heart probably fifteen times a minute. This is no more than to walk a block. I take, I suppose, twenty gallons of gas every day myself in showing people how, in order to have them commence. Four large breaths fill my lungs full, because that is the way to take it.

I think that I have added ten years to my life by taking this gas every day for the last thirty-one years. People do not think I am eighty-one, but I am, or shall be in two weeks from now.

GURDON W. RUSSELL, M. D. :

Mr. President and Gentlemen:—I wish to say first, that I have never seen or heard of any such careful history of the discovery of anæsthesia as has been given us to-night by Dr. Colton. All of us are very much obliged to him and I certainly am.

I knew Dr. Wells when he was here in Hartford practicing. I was then a young member of the medical profession, and felt an interest in these things that appeared to us as novelties. But Dr. Wells had such a way with him. He was evidently such a man of genius, he was evidently one of those brilliant men who conceive things which are sometimes too deep for most of us, and I have no doubt had a clear and distinct view of that great discovery, which has brought to him such recognition and to our town such honor. He went in and out among us as a quiet, unobtrusive gentleman in his profession. He made this discovery evidently just as Dr. Colton has described it. He perceived in it, I have no doubt, how far that discovery might extend and endeavored to convince others of its utility. He practiced it here, then went to Boston, where, unfortunately he did not succeed as well as he had hoped. He was so sensitive of his failure that he felt mortified and discouraged, but not disheartened.

He had that element of courage which enables great men to do great things. He was determined to succeed. He saw how beneficial this discovery might be. I give to him all credit, and I wish to add to his honor what little I can.

I came here not to tell a long story, but to say that I believe Dr. Wells was the actual discoverer of anæsthesia. That is what we must stick to. He was, if there is any truth in evidence, and if we can believe reliable men, the first man to bring into practical use in surgery, anæsthesia. What others may have done in the way of using other agents are subsequent and secondary to this timely discovery. It rests with him and that he made this discovery we are all agreed.

PINCKNEY W. ELLSWORTH, M. D. :

Mr. President and gentlemen :—I ought not to be here to-night, the pressure of eighty years is making considerable impression on me, but I feel so great an interest in the subject of anæsthesia, and particularly in regard to Dr. Wells, that I am exceedingly glad to be with you. I have more than a professional interest in Dr. Wells, he was my personal friend. During the time of a year or two previous to his death, he occupied the same building with myself. He lived in the humble south part and I in the equally humble north part. It is a little remarkable how many interesting events have occurred within a short distance of where he lived, how many of the honorable interests of Connecticut have centered near that spot. Within thirty or forty rods of the house was the hall in which the Charter of Connecticut was hidden for many years. On this spot the message from the King taking away certain privileges of the Colonists was read.

Great improvements have been made in regard to anæsthesia. It is a very singular thing that so many investigators of the use of anæsthesia should have died so suddenly. Wells became deranged and died ; Morton became deranged and after several attempts at suicide was pulled out of the water and died in the hospital. Jackson became deranged, or his mind became impaired, and he died.

I can testify, as I have done heretofore, that there is not the slightest doubt in my mind as to whom the honor of this discovery belongs. It belongs to Horace Wells. The discovery of anæsthesia by Wells, I have no doubt, has done away with half the terror of operations. I have talked this matter over with Dr. Wells, and he did pre-

cisely what I advised him to do. I advised him to go to Boston and see his old student, Morton, and get him to introduce him to some of the medical men of Boston, and that while there he would be able to get it introduced to the world and get it perfected.

Dr. Horace Wells will be accepted and acknowledged by the world as the discoverer of anæsthesia.

HENRY P. STEARNS, M. D. :

I deem myself especially favored in being present on this occasion. I am glad to mingle my congratulations with yours, that we no longer need to discuss the question of priority in the discovery of anæsthesia. This has been settled, at least by all who have examined the evidence. Our mission to-night is one of rejoicing in the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of one of the most triumphant discoveries ever vouchsafed to the human race.

In looking back, as we may do to-night, upon the history of modern anæsthesia, it is interesting to observe that it coincides in many ways with that of other discoveries, especially in the delay and difficulties attending its recognition. Nearly every great discoverer has been a prophet crying in the wilderness. His message has come to deaf ears and unbelieving hearts. For example, Copernicus, while observing the apparent movement of the planets through holes in the roof of his house, conceived the idea and afterwards worked out the demonstration of its truth, that the sun and not the earth was the center of the solar system. This was long before he was fifty years of age, but he could not proclaim his discovery or publish his demonstration with safety to his life until after he was seventy. And finally, after the

longest of waiting, his mind gave away, so that when his work was finished and placed in his hands he failed to recognize it as his own, and after a few hours of stammering incoherent words, he died, never having had the satisfaction of any public recognition of the great work of his life.

All are familiar with the sad ending of Columbus, who gave another continent to the world ; he died in ignorance of the fact that it was another continent which he had discovered ; that another had appropriated his discovery and named it after himself ; that he died in poverty, neglect and seeming disgrace, his very burial place being unhonored during long years afterward. Other cases with similar experiences will suggest themselves to your mind.

Our Wells, therefore, in the circumstances of his death, in his failure to secure public recognition as a discoverer, in the fact that he never himself realized its full significance as a blessing to the race, was only keeping company with his own kin. He simply walked in the path of others in passing to his seat among the immortals.

Some one has said that all things come to him who waits, but the greatest of discoverers have failed to wait long enough in this world. They have hitched their wagons to the stars, and have fallen into the dust from which they have passed to the heavens. The bright way they have trod has been one of difficulty.

Some have assumed that Wells' discovery was after all a secondary affair, because Sir Humphry Davy had offered the suggestion fifty years before that the pain attending surgical operations might be relieved by the use of nitrous oxide. But, if this is true, then the discovery of the law of gravity by Sir Isaac Newton was of secondary importance, because Copernicus had suggested



the existence of such a law in very close and definite terms years before Newton demonstrated it. If this view is correct then the fact that other Europeans had, hundreds of years before the time of Columbus, visited this continent and founded colonies on it, made his discovery a secondary affair. Yet the representatives of the Nations when they met in Chicago last year said very little in reference to those old pioneers, but they said and thought a great deal about Columbus.

The fact is that it is true of all these men alike, that they were almost certainly in ignorance of the suggestions and deeds of their predecessors, and each one for himself demonstrated his discovery.

In one respect, however, the discovery of Wells differed from that of Copernicus and others. While the discoveries of these men were wonderful and brilliant, yet they contributed little or nothing to the happiness or longevity of the race. Men would live as long, be as happy, and suffer as little if they still supposed the earth was the center of the solar system, or were still in theoretical ignorance of the law of gravity, and the movements of the planets.

On the other hand, language fails to convey an adequate conception of the beneficence which has come through the discovery of Wells. That these sensitive, suffering bodies of ours may pass through necessary experiences in soundest slumber, which would otherwise be attended with unutterable agony, is a boon so great and unique that it stands alone on the page of history.

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen, I am glad to join with you here to-night in binding another wreath of laurel upon the memory of him whom we have honored on this fiftieth anniversary of his marvelous and beneficent discovery.



REV. G. WILLIAMSON SMITH, D. D.,

President of Trinity College :

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Connecticut State Dental Association. I esteem it a great honor that I am permitted to be present with you as the representative of one of those institutions which stand for the improvement of all relating to human nature. Nothing that is general for the improvement of mankind, or the alleviation of suffering is foreign to us who are engaged in our quiet, and yet, I believe, important occupation.

I feel it a high honor also that I am to be here as the representative of that calling which has its duties among those who suffer, for, as you know, we of the clergy who are engaged in our ordinary occupations of administering to people are often called upon to act with the physician, the surgeon and the professional man whose business it is to administer to men for the ills that flesh is heir to. I feel on both these accounts that I have a sort of right to be here, and yet, I feel all the more grateful to you for the courtesy that I am here to represent those who are so much interested in this field, and again I thank you because I feel I can claim affinity with you all as one of the race which has been so much benefitted by the man in whose honor we are assembled this evening. Now it very seldom happens that people who are gathered together represent all mankind. If we meet together to honor a soldier, we feel that the soldiers are most interested, or if we meet to honor a great man or author we feel somehow that he belongs to them more than to us, not so is it with all who are assembled here to honor Horace Wells. We feel that everyone who lives upon the earth is interested in what he has done, not simply referring to the calling of the soldier or author, or any profession, but to universal mankind.

I remember on one occasion I was present at the Academy of Science when a consignment of mummies had been received from Egypt. Said I, "those Egyptians knew a great many things, but not all things. He said, "they knew everything except steam and electricity." I said, "there is one thing they did not know. They did not know how to fill teeth." "Did not know how to fill teeth?" said he, "look here," and he drew out a small case and in it was a simple black tooth. In the tooth was a cavity and in the bottom something shone like gold. "There is a tooth I took out of one of these mummies, showing that the Egyptians knew how to fill teeth four thousand years ago." But they did not know the secret of anæsthesia. At that time I was not aware of the importance of this discovery in relation to teeth, because then my teeth were all sound, but since that time I have had occasion to know that the Egyptians lived before their time. Now, Mr. President, there are benefactors and benefactors of the race. In Trinity College we go over the records of those who have done great things in the world of science and politics, but we try to give men a knowledge of those who have contributed largely to human welfare, and among the names of those who have done much for us and for all generations there is a name that is dear to the people of Hartford, and dear to all those who value the blessings that have been conferred by the discovery of Dr. Wells.

I am glad to be able to sit this evening by the side of a man of whom I have heard for many years. The Spaniards have a word "Hidalgo," meaning "the son of something." I have had the honor to sit beside a gentleman this evening who is the son of something that will last, something that has been a benefit to suffering humanity, something that is not going to pass away and

fade as do the records of most men who have achieved great things on the battle-field ; but something which interests every son of man, for there is not one so high as not to feel the need of ministration, no man so low as not to appreciate what has been done for him by anæsthesia.

Dr. Colton has told us of the hundreds of odd thousands that have been benefited by anæsthesia. We have heard of the hundreds from other sources, and yet that does not begin to touch one hundredth part of the amount of suffering which has been relieved by the discovery of this man in whose honor we are assembled here to-night. Of the names that will be remembered when the names of others have been forgotten, those who minister to the universal wants of mankind will stand highest, and among them I do not know of any that ought to stand higher than the name of him who from this time forth will have contributed to the alleviation of human suffering in one of its most poignant forms. I feel quite unequal to tell you how all the associations connected with this name and this work press upon me this evening. There is the historic background of those people whom it did not help. Why, before us the millions and untold millions who never heard of the name of this benefactor profit from day to day by his discovery.

It seems to me particularly proper that the Dental Association, which is regarded as a branch of the great medical profession, that they, in whose interest this discovery has been made, should take up the name of this gentleman and push it to the forefront, and I gather from that, pardon me gentlemen, for in my character as a clergyman of course I must draw a moral from everything, when any man in any business that God gave him to do on this earth does that business honestly and in the fear of God, it makes no difference in the eyes of

the world whether he is a great man or a small man. He is the man who will benefit mankind.

I suppose there is no name to-day that ought to stand higher, or to receive more blessings from men than that of this man Wells who has conferred so great a benefit upon mankind.

HON. HENRY BARNARD, L.L. D., of Hartford :

Mr. President and Gentlemen: I will not trespass upon the kindness or courtesy of this company by making any long remarks. I came here with a profound interest in the fame, and the just fame, of Horace Wells. It was my pleasure to know him, not intimately, but to know him more than I know many of his profession, but of all the men and of all the contributions that have been made for the progress and aid of humanity, I have for half a century regarded him as among the foremost. And, since we have before us to-night one of the facts of the benefit of that agent which he employed in the prolongation of human life, I might as well state that I have been carried four years beyond the limit of age reached by our honored guest, Dr. Colton.

Seventy years ago I had administered to me this gas which has produced such glorious effects, but I never knew until to-night that it was due to that early inhalation that the life was prolonged. For the time being it had, I thought, quite the contrary effect. I happened to be a student of Monson Academy, of which my friend opposite was also a member. The principal or preceptor of the Academy was Benjamin Silliman, who in early practice in Yale College always gave a day to laughing gas, and when he became principal of the Academy it was one of the first things that he did. In the course of

the year he gave an exhibition of the effects of nitrous oxide. Very few ventured, however, to take it. As I was then a lad some twelve years of age, and thought somewhat courageous, I was pushed forward to take it. I am very sorry to say that it very nearly became the death of me. I fell on the ground and lay insensible, and as they pushed away the crowd and fresh air came in and I began to revive I had an exhibition of what not all the preaching I ever heard since gave me. Such an impression was made on my mind as I began to regain consciousness. Every point of the heavens seemed open to me. Whenever I hear anything of the last judgment I confess it reminds me of the time when I took the gas.

This is a great agent, and all I say to dentists is, know something of the constitution of those to whom you administer it. It now stands like the other departments of the medical profession and every other great profession, on the basis of general intelligence, general education, and the more education the better for the dentist as a man and the better off the world for its practice.

Now as I look around to-night and see this company so intently occupied, looking so pleasant, it seems as if it were impossible for them to cause so much pain. It is an honorable profession, but when we look at the benefits which one of their number has given to the world the profession stands up in a very different light. It seems to me that after all that has been said we do not grasp at the great thing Wells did. It was not any one thing, an experiment, a gas, it was the suspension of pain. And no matter what the agent, whether the present or the future, the experience was the thing and the application of that principle by Wells that constitutes the glory. The same thing had happened Sir Isaac Newton. Others had seen an apple fall, but he grasped

the situation. So it was with others and the tea-kettle. They had seen compressed steam lifting the lid, but it required Watts to get the experience which was to carry on the great revolution in all of the mechanical arts and sciences.

Do not leave the profession where you find it. Carry it forward with all the instruments or improvements you can make. Carry it forward until it shall come when there shall be no pain there.

DR. CHARLES C. BARKER, of Meriden,  
President of the Connecticut Valley Dental Society :

Mr. President and Gentlemen : I cannot refrain from expressing my pleasure in commemorating with you in this fitting manner the fiftieth anniversary of that noted epoch in human history which introduced the era of anæsthesia. We live in that era, thank Heaven, and Heaven's ministry through Horace Wells, that devoted and noble servant of mankind.

The progress of our race along the pathway of knowledge has been marked by many an epoch—footsteps of attainment—but few of them have been more notable than the one we celebrate to-night. When I look back over the track I am often amazed how lately some of those vital truths and principles which we now know to be most intimately connected with our well being and comfort—how recently—they have been discovered. The men of ancient times seem to have had a penchant for star gazing rather than for a study of themselves and their world.

This perhaps was natural enough, but the result was that charts of the heavens were drawn long before a map was made of our earth.



Copernicus perceived the movement and rotation of the celestial bodies a long time before Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood. Why, it is only about one hundred and twenty-five years ago that any real knowledge was attained concerning the vital element upon which all animal life depends. Until that time the air we breathe was considered to be a simple, homogeneous, undecomposable body, instead of a mixture of gases.

Joseph Priestley demonstrated that its vitalizing principle was oxygen. It is undoubtedly true, as it has been characterized "The capital discovery of the last age." (Draper.)

Its effects have been far reaching—our boat rides to-night on a wave set in motion by its influence—with this new knowledge the chemistry of that day was overthrown. New views of physiology prevailed; the old metaphysical physiology—the more of which a man read, the less he knew—was forever exploded. How could there be any true perception of physiological process and function without a recognition of that prime factor in all life—Oxygen!

A mental contrast between what is now understood, and what before was unknown, will help us to more clearly sense the value and importance of this epoch and cause us to wonder how men lived so long without knowing it. Priestley also detected that chemical union of oxygen and nitrogen in certain proportions which has become known throughout the civilized world as Nitrous Oxide Gas; but did not apprehend its physiological effects; it remained for him whose fair fame we celebrate this evening to grasp the fact of its benign power over the sensory nerves, and to give the blessing and boon of his great discovery to the world.



And so we live in the anæsthetic era. It is indeed impossible to present a correct estimate or even an approximate valuation of the benefits derived. They are simply incalculable.

What suffering has been alleviated ! How many lives have been saved and prolonged ! What a burden of woe has been lifted ! The cloud which brooded like a nightmare has been largely dissipated. Dentists and surgeons can testify more clearly of this than others, but the whole round world knows much of it ; and fifty years of cumulative experiment and test have brought the conclusion on the part of learned and scientific men that "Nitrous Oxide was the first anæsthetic ; and the safety and certainty of its effects, and the promptness with which persons recover from its use, render it perhaps the most important of all anæsthetics, because destined to relieve a greater aggregate amount of pain, *with greater safety*, than any other agent." (Edward R. Squibb, M. D., before the Medical Society of the State of New York.) And that "the safest anæsthetic" he said "was undoubtedly nitrous oxide." (Dr. Horatio C. Wood, at the recent International Medical Congress, Berlin.)

Who are the world's greatest benefactors ? Let me answer directly and briefly. We all know that the Christ—the anointed Jesus—stands over alone and without a peer in his appointed field ; but I speak of merely human service.

Not the warriors who too often have bathed the world in blood only to increase its anguish. Not the statesmen, great though their service has been in preserving governmental equilibrium in critical times, but those who, in the language of Wendell Phillips, "Secure the world's progress, treble its powers over nature,

wear away its restraints, lift off its burdens, and double its sunshine."

If it be true of Watt—who found out the power residing in the vapor of water, and gave us the steam engine and its prodigies,—if it be a fact, as Dr. Draper says, that "the assertion is true, that James Watt, the instrument maker, conferred on his native country more solid benefits than all the treaties she ever made, and all the battles she ever won", then what shall we say of Horace Wells? Should not a chaplet encircle his noble brow? The achievements of modern dentistry and modern surgery had not been possible except for the way he opened. But for that the sweets and blessings of life would have been denied to millions whose disabilities have thereby been removed.

We, as dentists, feel especial and pardonable pride that he was a royal brother in our chosen profession. He was a dentist; Hartford was his dwelling place; in this goodly city he practiced; and here the wonder of his great discovery was first known and felt. It is a bright laurel in the city's history.

We gladly place the tablet to-day that all who hereafter pass by may know that here is the historic spot where men first began to experience immunity from pain. It is a very pleasant thing for the citizen of Connecticut, as he passes leisurely through the beautiful walks of Bushnell Park, approaching and at last entering the stately Capitol, to find here and there preserved to us, in enduring marble and bronze, the features and form of many distinguished men, noted in the annals of our good old Commonwealth; but among them all, Horace Wells stands ever as a peer in his service to humanity. Like Abou Ben Adhem, in the poet's dream, he ranks as "One who loved his fellow men."

## JUDGE McMANUS :

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Dental Society : I came here to night after some absence from the city and had prepared in my own mind a little something to say, which I thought perhaps might be suitable, but as one after another of the speakers has addressed you I discovered that they had appropriated all I had prepared, and I am obliged to rely upon such suggestions as may occur to me while speaking. As I stand here and look upon the members gathered around I see an honorable gentleman who spoke to us a little while ago. He is now over seventy but will live to be a hundred. I remember him telling me a story a few years ago about his experience in his profession, and I will tell it to you, although as Lieutenant Governor Sumner would say, it is *à propos* of nothing. When he was in the medical college, the students came down to dinner one day and one says to another, "By the way Joe, you cut off the wrong leg of that fellow in No. 17 this morning." "The deuce I did, now I have got to go and cure the other." I remember meeting a friend of mine, a famous politician, who had been to a gathering the previous evening and I asked him what *he* said. He replied that he had made the effort of his life—he kept still, and I do not know but what I had better make a similar effort. But, I have learned a great deal here and I feel indebted largely, and I think everybody here should feel indebted to the President of the Valley Dental Association for the address which he made to-night. It is not only replete with information but absolutely classic. I have not heard in years anything more elegant and fitting than his address to-night.

It has been my pleasure and it has been my duty in

life, years ago, to associate with men who have marched up to the booming, belching cannon's mouth without a tremor, but of all these men I do not think there was one who would dare go into the office of one of you without meditating retreat.

I was requested in 1891 to draw up a law for the purpose of establishing the dental profession of this state upon a proper basis, and I examined the laws of the different states of the Union relating to your profession, and with the assistance of Gen. Graham and other eminent dentists we prepared a statute culled from all, but better, we think, than any one of them. While perhaps some of you know a little of the doings of the legislature of 1891, many have probably forgotten all about it. On the first day of the session, through Senator Clark, that law was presented to the State Senate. I think that this law and one other were all that were presented to the legislature that year. The legislature met, one board Democratic and the other Republican, but could not agree on anything, and after thinking awhile they called in the advice of eminent members of that profession to which I have the honor to belong. After several weeks, these lawyers, finding that they could not agree, applied to the courts. We must have more information, said the Judges, and more information was given. Then the court said, you must go back to the legislature, and then the legislature said, we can do nothing unless you go back to the court, and I think they finally decided that the only power they had was to pay themselves and to adjourn. They paid themselves and adjourned, and nothing was done during that year. Connecticut spent two years in a legislative trance.

In 1893 the law was passed, and, with the exception of one single verbal blunder, made by the clerks, and

which will be speedily rectified, the law is perfect. You can now keep your profession clear of such men as ought not to belong to it, and yet every man worthy of belonging to it can get admission. I do not know of any profession or calling so admirably protected, inside and outside, as is the dental profession of Connecticut, and it is a very fitting thing that you join here together in honoring the memory of one of your own body, a man who has done so much, not only for your profession but for the entire human race.

He has enabled you, and all of the medical profession to guard against the terrors that formerly awaited those who were unfortunate enough to require your services. Pains are annihilated, terror is banished, every dread has disappeared, with the exception of one, and I do not think it possible, even if the world should last twenty thousand years longer, for any man to invent anything that will be a panacea against it. This is their unspeakable dread of your professional bills. I do not know of anything that will cure that. The man is not born, nor will he be ever, who can discover or invent an anæsthetic that will protect humanity against that.

DR. JAS. McMANUS :

Mr. President and Gentlemen : I thank you for the very flattering remarks which introduced me and I can say to-night, with you all, that I only express your opinions when I say how much we regret the fact that Dr. Parmele, Chairman of this Committee, and Dr. Civilion Fones of Bridgeport, are both unable to be present with us to-night. Dr. Parmele had special charge and direction of this part of the work, and up to this noon he expected to be with us. Unfortunately he

is quite ill and has not been able, and any little delay that has occurred in the exercises to-night in getting ready for the banquet is due to the fact that he is not with us, and that I have tried as far as in my power to do that which he would have been better able to perform.

I merely want to say to you that his suggestion and desire was that when we closed our exercises here to-night, that those who remained to the close shall walk around to the D. F. Robinson building on Main street, and unveil the tablet, so that the citizens of Hartford to-morrow, on the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery can have that tablet to look at. I wish to say in relation to the tablet that when this movement was started it was started as a local affair, without any design to go outside the state, but it so happened that in May last the Dental Society of New York and a Dental Society of Philadelphia passed resolutions regarding the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of anæsthesia. The three movements were started at the same time, and when the other parties found that we were going to do something in Hartford they then favored holding a National celebration, and at the meeting of the Southern and American Dental Associations at Old Point Comfort it was decided that there should be a National celebration of the event. As a member of the Committee from Connecticut I was for holding the celebration here, but as there were several colleges of Dental Surgery, Medical Associations and Dental Associations in Philadelphia, and as it was a Medical and Dental center that all could very easily reach, I said we would waive the rights of Hartford. We will join with you in Philadelphia, but that we retained the right to hold a celebration in Hartford on the evening of the 10th.



We decided that we would put up a memorial tablet, and our first idea was that we would simply put up a small tablet. We decided to send out circulars to a few dentists in every state of the Union, to only a few, and those few representative dentists, asking their co-operation. Before deciding really what to do we called upon our friend, Mr. Woods. We told him what we thought we could do and asked him to give us an estimate. He gave us an estimate, and I went down to Old Point Comfort and started the movement. We have raised money enough to pay for that tablet and no one has paid anything toward it but reputable practicing dentists. The list comprises many of the best men in this country, professors and men of long years in practice. I have received letters and contributions from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon. I received contributions from twenty-nine states of the Union. The contributions are all, with the exception of a very few, one dollar contributions, for that was all we asked. We did hope for a little more from Connecticut men, but in our circular it limited the contributions to one dollar, and the responses were satisfactory. While it made considerable work in the way of writing, returning receipts, etc., the letters we received thanking us for giving them an opportunity to contribute, were very gratifying.

The tablet is placed there by the contributions of over two hundred and seventy American Dentists, nearly two-thirds of those contributions being from outside of Connecticut, so that no one can say that it is a local affair or a friendly act. It is the expression of the dentists of the United States. That is what it means. It has been paid for by the practicing dentists and no one else. There is only one person that is not a dentist that has done anything towards that tablet, and that



man has done magnificently, and that is Mr. Woods. He has given us and the city the largest and finest tablet, a most artistic one, that will stand on a public building outside to the public gaze in this country to-day. It is artistic in the highest degree and something that you will all be proud of, and something which I hope the city will accept as the contribution of the Dentists of the United States. Mr. Woods has done nobly by us. I am sorry to say that we have not been able to pay him what he deserves.

The arrangement made by Dr. Parmele, as Chairman of this Committee, was, that as we closed our exercises here to-night we should go down and unveil it. I thank you for the assistance which you have given me in working this thing up. It has been a success in every respect.

Dr. James McManus then moved that the tablet be presented to the city of Hartford and the members voted unanimously to make the presentation. After a rising vote of thanks had been presented to Enoch S. Woods, the sculptor, the party marched up Pratt street and down Main, stopping at the front of the building of the D. F. Robinson estate on which the tablet is erected. Here at 12:40 o'clock Sculptor E. S. Woods cut the cord that held the veil and the son of Dr. Wells, Charles T. Wells, of this city, unveiled the tablet.

Dr. James McManus in a brief and fitting speech presented the tablet to the city, and Mayor Brainard made a patriotic response accepting the tablet in behalf of the city and assuring the Connecticut Dental Association of the approval of his action by the Common Council. The unveiling and presentation to the city at this hour of the night made the scene extremely impressive.

As a memorial celebration of a national character was

to be held in Philadelphia under the auspices of the American Dental Association, it was decided to make the Hartford gathering a state and city celebration ; with the exception of Dr. G. Q. Colton, who was one of the trio at the birth of the discovery, no efforts were made to call together friends from other states. It was a mistake not to have the national celebration held in Hartford, for there were so many then living in the city who were familiar with the incidents and actors in the discovery that would have gladly taken a part in the memorial celebration.

The gathering at the Hartford banquet was notable from the fact that there were present Drs. Colton, Ellsworth, Russell, Barnard, and by letter, the Hon. A. E. Burr, gentlemen all over eighty years old, who were personally acquainted with Dr. Wells at the time he made his discovery.

The following letters of regret were read :

From the Hon. Luzon B. Morris, Governor of Connecticut.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT. °

Dec. 10th, 1894.

GEO. L. PARMELE,

*Chairman.*

Dear Sir :

I regret that I shall not be able, on account of my business engagements, to meet with you this evening in honor of the discovery of Anæsthesia.

Yours truly,

LUZON B. MORRIS.

From General Joseph R. Hawley, United States Senator from Connecticut.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28, '94.

Dear Doctors :

My official duties forbid the acceptance of the Connecticut State Dental Association's invitation to the dinner in Hartford, Dec. 10th, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the discovery of Anæsthesia. I regret this very much, but I am determined D. V., to attend the national gathering in Philadelphia, that I may contribute my mite toward doing justice to the memory of Dr. Wells and vindicate Connecticut's claim for the first place in this, as in many other fields of invention and discovery.

Sincerely yours,

J. R. HAWLEY.

From Charles Dudley Warner, Esq.

HARTFORD, Dec. 8th, '94.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE,

My dear Sir :

In my hurried preparation for going abroad I cannot attend the dinner celebrating the 50th anniversary of the discovery of Anæsthesia by Dr. Horace Wells. I regret this, for I should like to add the small testimony of my presence to the gratitude of mankind to one of its greatest benefactors, and my indignation at the all too successful efforts to deprive him of his honors. The case is so plain that it is difficult to understand how the world could have been so largely deceived. But we know that Dr. Wells was a modest, unassuming man, who resorted to no arts to advertise himself, or gain prosperity or notoriety, while the ambitious Morton

seized upon his discovery and by persistent pushing got his name attached to it in the public mind and in the histories of the times. The case is not an isolated one in history, even in the history of Connecticut. Fitch, who first applied steam to the movement of vessels, has not the general credit of his invention. But truth sometimes does prevail in this world, though it needs a little more pushing than a lie, and I hope and believe that if you continue your efforts the name of Horace Wells will have some day no rival in this great discovery.

Yours sincerely,

CHAS. DUDLEY WARNER.

From Charles J. Hoadley, LL. D., State Librarian.

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY.

HARTFORD, Nov. 16th, 1894.

Gentlemen :

I thank you most cordially for the invitation to be present at the dinner to be given in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Discovery of Anæsthesia and regret that I am unable to accept it.

I have some recollection of the talk at the time of Dr. Well's discovery, and have never seen reason to doubt his claim to the honor.

Very respectfully yours,

CHARLES J. HOADLEY.

Messrs Geo. L. Parmele, }  
Civilion Fones, } Committee.  
Jas. McManus, }

Letter from Hon. Alfred E. Burr, Editor *Hartford Times*.

HARTFORD, CONN., Dec. 18th, 1894.

DR. McMANUS :

I thank your committee for the card inviting my presence at the banquet this evening in honor of the great

discovery of Dr. Horace Wells fifty years ago. But I do not deem it prudent to go out this evening as I still feel the effects of my late severe illness, in which I found something of the terrible pain that follows the surgeon's knife when the gas is set aside. I remember the earnest manner in which Dr. Riggs, on bringing a communication for publication, told the story about his pulling one of Dr. Wells's teeth. Both of them felt that there would be danger in putting one into an entire state of unconsciousness by the gas. It might be fatal. But Dr. Wells had seen results at Mr. Colton's exhibitions, had heard Dr. Cooley's story and he decided to have a test made upon his own person. He put a bag of the gas to his face and held it there till he knew nothing. Then Dr. Riggs pulled the tooth. On returning to consciousness and looking upon the tooth that had been pulled without inflicting the least pain, Dr. Wells exclaimed, "It is a success." There and at that moment in that personal and practical test was the announcement made of the real discovery by Dr. Horace Wells that in surgical operations there need be no pain. And this discovery stands foremost among all the advances and discoveries in the history of medical and surgical science hardly excepting even the discovery of the circulation of the blood.

Yours Resp'y,

A. E. BURR.

Letters were also received from Dr. Samuel A. Cooley, Lieut. Governor E. Cady, General Wm. B. Franklin, Col. A. A. Pope, Chas. Hopkins Clark, Richard Burton, Dr. C. T. Stockwell, Springfield, Mass.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS  
TO THE  
WELLS MEMORIAL TABLET AT HARTFORD.

---

## CONNECTICUT.

HARTFORD.—Geo. L. Parmele, Jas. McManus, Charles McManus, Henry McManus, L. C. Taylor, N. J. Goodwin, John N. Wells, E. R. Whitford, J. F. Wright, F. W. Dunham, Edward Eberle, Monroe Griswold, Chas. K. Bryant, J. F. Doebler, H. J. Fisk, L. H. Fisk, Chas. H. Riggs, S. L. G. Crane.

MANCHESTER.—G. M. Griswold.

SOUTH MANCHESTER.—M. M. Maine.

NEW HAVEN.—Edward S. Gaylord, Daniel A. Jones, Mrs. Jones, W. H. Metcalf, F. W. Brown, A. B. Smith, Robt. T. Ehnle, W. T. Holmes.

NEW LONDON.—Edward Prentis, R. W. Browne, A. W. Crosby, W. W. Sheffield, F. S. Norkett, J. R. Linsley, A. A. Bishop.

MERIDEN.—C. C. Barker, P. A. Powers, R. K. MacVean, D. C. McMahon, J. J. Flanagan, L. T. Doolittle.

BRANFORD.—David W. Johnson.

NEW BRITAIN.—R. C. Dunham, A. E. Wales, P. J. McDonald, C. B. Erichson.

NAUGATUCK.—W. E. Gerrish.

NIANTIC.—J. G. Champlin.

NORWALK.—Winfield H. Baldwin.

BRIDGEPORT.—Civilion Fones, Alfred C. Fones, A. E. Fones, C. W. Strang, C. B. Adams, G. F. Williams, W. L. Ferris, J. S. Cairoli, G. F. Barden, L. E. Sage, C. F. Gibbs, C. B. Baker, Frederick Hindsley, C. H. Porter.

DANBURY.—Wm. J. Rider, W. H. Rider, J. C. Whaley, S. W. Chipman.

DANIELSONVILLE.—O. C. Sharpe.

ANSONIA.—M. C. Hitchcock.

BRISTOL.—L. L. Beach, J. S. Wilson.

MOODUS.—Russell Arnold.

MIDDLETOWN.—O. S. Watrous, A. P. French, A. H. Fagan, C. P. Graham.

WINDSOR LOCKS.—F. T. Murlless, F. T. Murlless, Jr.

WALLINGFORD.—J. T. Barker.

THOMPSONVILLE.—B. H. Thornton.

SAYBROOK.—B. W. Leonard.

SOUTHINGTON.—A. J. Cutting.

JEWETT CITY.—H. Dryhurst.

PUTNAM.—A. H. Strahan, W. H. Sharpe.

LAKEVILLE.—G. L. Hurd.

ROCKVILLE.—W. H. Loomis, W. C. MacGeorge, Geo. W. Allen, R. R. Roberts.

WINSTED.—S. S. Tulier, G. C. Hubbell, F. E. Roys.

WEST WINSTED.—W. T. Smith, Robert M. Burwell.

#### CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO.—W. J. Younger, C. L. Goddard.

#### DELAWARE.

WILMINGTON.—C. R. Jefferis.

MIDDLETOWN.—T. H. Galpin.

LAUREL.—J. M. Hitch.

#### IOWA.

IOWA CITY.—W. O. Kulp, A. O. Hunt, Dental Department, Univ. Iowa.

#### ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO.—Truman W. Brophy, A. W. Harlan, Louis Ottofy, J. N. Crouse, L. L. Davis, Frank H. Gardiner, C. N. Johnson, J. S. Marshall, Geo. H. Cushing, W. V. B. Ames, Eugene S. Talbot, L. P. Haskell, E. D. Swain.

#### INDIANA.

FORT WAYNE.—Seneca B. Brown.

#### KANSAS.

TOPEKA.—A. H. Thompson.

#### KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE.—Francis Peabody, C. L. Seymour, B. O. Doyle, J. W. Wallace, H. B. Tilleston, E. M. Kettig, C. E. Dunn, J. H. Baldwin, W. S. Smith, C. G. Edwards.

#### LOUISIANA.

NEW ORLEANS.—George J. Friederichs, J. Rollo Knapp, Joseph Bauer.

#### MAINE.

AUGUSTA.—E. J. Roberts.

PORTLAND.—D. W. Fellows.

#### MARYLAND.

BALTIMORE.—M. W. Foster, William B. Finney, B. Holly Smith, T. Solers Waters, W. S. Twilley.

#### WASHINGTON, D. C.

H. B. Noble, Williams Donnally, H. C. Thompson, M. F. Finley, Daniel McFarlan.



## MASSACHUSETTS.

BOSTON.—Jacob L. Williams, Eugene H. Smith, Thos. Fillebrown, Dwight M. Clapp, John T. Codman, Waldo E. Boardman.

CAMBRIDGE.—R. R. Andrews.

WORCESTER.—C. Frank Blevin.

NEW BEDFORD.—E. V. McLeod.

SHELBURNE FALLS.—E. A. Stebbins.

WARE.—W. O. Barrett.

NORTHAMPTON.—W. H. Jones, J. N. Davenport.

PITTSFIELD.—S. S. Stowell.

SPRINGFIELD.—C. T. Stockwell, N. Morgan, J. Searle Hurlburt, J. K. Wiley.

HOLYOKE.—O. H. Hastings, G. A. Maxfield.

## MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS.—H. J. McKellops, A. H. Fuller, E. S. Chisholm, A. J. Prosser, J. G. Pfaff, DeCoursey Lindsay, L. A. Young, P. H. Morrison, J. B. Newby, Emma Eames Chase, Geo. W. Applegate, Geo. A. Bronson, F. F. Fletcher, J. B. Vernon, Wm. M. Conrad, Walter B. Bartlett, H. J. Cassett, H. H. Keith, Wm. E. Lange, J. E. Gusheider, M. R. Windhoist, J. W. Wick.

KANSAS CITY.—J. D. Patterson.

MACON.—T. W. Reed.

## MICHIGAN.

DETROIT.—George L. Field.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE.

NASHUA.—Geo. A. Bowers.

MANCHESTER.—C. W. Clements.

## NEW JERSEY.

MONTCLAIR.—S. C. G. Watkins.

NEWARK.—Chas. S. Stockton.

Central Dental Association of Northern New Jersey.

## NEW YORK.

NEW YORK CITY.—Wm. Carr, E. A. Bogue, Frank Abbott, New York College of Dentistry, M. L. Rhein, G. S. Allen, C. F. W. Bödecker, F. Hasbrouck, Benjamin Lord, V. H. Jackson, John T. Metcalf, J. Morgan Howe, A. L. Northrup, S. G. Perry, J. Bond Littig, Chas. E. Francis, Benjamin C. Nash, J. H. Mayer, W. W. Walker.

BROOKLYN.—Wm. Jarvie, Chas. D. Cook, A. N. Chapman, H. G. Mirick.

BUFFALO.—Wm. C. Barrett, Theo. G. Lewis.

ALBANY.—E. C. Baxter.

ELMIRA.—F. B. Darby.

SYRACUSE.—S. B. Palmer.

YONKERS.—R. A. Fones.

#### NORTH CAROLINA.

RALEIGH.—V. E. Turner.

#### OHIO.

CINCINNATI.—J. A. Callahan, H. A. Smith.

CLEVELAND.—C. R. Butler, S. B. Dewey, H. L. Ambler, W. H. Whitslar.

KENT.—L. P. Bethel.

#### OREGON.

PORTLAND.—Geo. H. Chance.

#### PENNSYLVANIA.

PHILADELPHIA.—Edwin T. Darby, Thos. C. Stellwagen, Alonzo Boice, E. H. Roberts, C. N. Peirce, J. D. Thomas, Robert Huey, James E. Garretson, S. H. Guilford, Wilbur F. Litch, J. Foster Flagg, Henry I. Dorr, Jas. Truman, D. D. Smith, J. Ashley Faught, Louis Jack, W. G. A. Bonwill, C. J. Essig, Theo. F. Chupein, E. C. Kirk, Daniel N. McQuillen.

PITTSBURGH.—J. G. Templeton.

ERIE.—W. E. Magill.

#### RHODE ISLAND.

NEWPORT.—C. A. Brackett.

WOONSOCKET.—A. W. Buckland.

PROVIDENCE.—Wm. Barker, G. G. H. Ames, F. N. Seabury.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA.

COLUMBIA.—Thos. T. Moore.

SPARTANBURGH.—Thos. J. Calvert.

CHARLESTON.—L. P. Dotterer.

#### TENNESSEE.

NASHVILLE.—W. H. Morgan, H. W. Morgan, Gordon White, R. P. Freeman, J. Y. Crawford.

#### TEXAS.

WACO.—W. R. Clifton.

#### VERMONT.

BURLINGTON.—Jas. Lewis.

ST. JOHNSBURY.—Geo. F. Cheney.

## VIRGINIA.

FARMVILLE.—W. W. H. Thackston.

STAUNTON.—Jas. Johnson.

## WASHINGTON, (State.)

TACOMA.—W. E. Burkhart.

The tablet was designed by E. S. Woods, Sculptor, Hartford, and cast in bronze by Mr. Mossman of Chicopee, Mass. It measures 5 feet by 2 feet 5 inches, and is said to be the largest out-door memorial of the kind heretofore erected in the United States.



## EARLY RECORD OF DENTISTS IN CONNECTICUT

---

THE promoters of the Columbian Dental Congress arranged to secure, if possible, a complete history of dentistry in the United States for the previous one hundred years. Committees were appointed in each state and circular letters of instruction were sent to them with printed forms for distribution to the dentists asking for answers to the several questions contained therein that if fully complied with would have given valuable information for the future historian. Acting as one of the committee for Connecticut I sent out the circulars with many private letters but received less than fifty replies ; so that I was forced to look up as best I could the information desired. From the oldest newspaper in the state, *The Connecticut Courant*, and the early dental journals I gathered such material as I could and sent in a report which I had hoped would be published in the Transactions, but owing to lack of funds, the histories of the different states were not included in the published reports of the Congress. As I had given time and spent some money in getting material for this report and having become quite interested in the subject, I decided to continue the work so that I might give to the profession in printed form a brief but fairly accurate record of the earlier men who practiced dentistry in Connecticut.

**1800**, Sept. 29th. We find in the *Hartford Courant* of Sept. 29th, 1800, the advertisement of Dr. Richard C. Skinner, Surgeon Dentist from New York respectfully informing the Hartford public that he has arrived and will continue in Jacob Ogden's house until Oct. 10th. "The most majestic formed person, possessing the proportions, features, symmetry and complexion of a Venus, or Adonis, with all the fascinating charms of the Graces; by exhibiting a set of irregular, black or rotten teeth, will, in a great measure, lose the wonderful effect their charms and accomplishments would otherwise inspire."

**1801**. June 22nd. Hudson & Goodwin, proprietors of the *Courant* advertise a restorative powder for the teeth and gums.

**1801**. Oct 5th. Dr. R. C. Skinner has for sale his Treatise on the Human Teeth. Expects to visit Hartford the first of October, when he will be happy to attend to such applications as may be needed for his professional services. Oct. 19th. Dr. Skinner informs the public that in consequence of the Yellow Fever in New York, he will continue in Hartford until the 24th, on which date he will positively depart for his own home.

**1802**. Oct. 11th. Dr. Skinner, Surgeon Dentist, respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of Hartford and its vicinity that he positively departs for New York on Monday the 18th inst. He presents the warmest effusions of a grateful heart to those persons who have at any time honored him with their patronage, and assures them it is one of the most pleasing consolations of his life that he has in all cases endeavored to merit the unequivocal approbation and gratification of those persons who have been pleased to employ him. The extensive and successful practice he has enjoyed in New York and Connecticut for twelve years past justifies the

presumption that he has given general satisfaction in his professional capacity. Should any case occur however contrary to this expectation, he will even feel it not only a pleasure but an indisputable duty to exhibit an accommodating disposition and accede to all reasonable requests, by giving every applicant even more than the full value of his fee.

**1804.** June 27th. Dr. J. B. Porter expects to spend a few days in the city. Engages to perform business in the dental line, in its various branches. Dirty, yellow and black teeth often make an unwholesome breath. Artificial teeth may be placed without pain in the operation or effects. Ladies may be waited on in their houses or at his rooms opposite Mr. Lee's tavern.

**1805.** July 17th. William Bradley, Dentist, intends practicing here a few weeks. Flatters himself able to give perfect satisfaction, for his experience and instruction was received from those eminent in the profession. Those who wish to be attended at their houses, leave a line at his room in the west end of Mr. Ransom's house.

**1805.** Dec. 18th. Dr. Skinner is the only operator in America who substitutes or sets artificial teeth. After the first operation his old customers will only be charged one-half the rate.

**1813.** Nov. 23rd. R. Denah informs the ladies and gentlemen of Hartford and its vicinity that he has taken a room in Mr. Perkins' house on Main St., where he will continue for three weeks. He makes and inserts artificial teeth in the most improved manner, without pain in the operation. He cleans, mends, plugs and extracts teeth, in the best manner, No one is obliged to pay unless satisfied.

**1815.** June 14th. T. Hardy, Dentist, taken a room at Edward Perkins', Pearl street. Flatters himself



that his improved method of inserting artificial teeth will meet with the same patronage received elsewhere. Cavities filled with gold, silver, and tin foil. Tooth brushes and paste for sale.

**1815.** Nov. 7th. Dr. Carr, Dentist, will be at Edward Perkins' boarding house for two or three weeks.

**1815.** Dec 19th. David Greenleaf was born in South Coventry in 1765. He removed to Hartford in 1790, and was engaged in the goldsmith's business; later he commenced the practice of dentistry. In the *Hartford Courant*, Dec. 19th, 1815, he advertised as follows: D. Greenleaf wishes to inform the public that he has erected a convenient room over Seth Whiting's Hardware Store, where ladies and gents can be supplied with handsome and durable artificial teeth with little or no pain. Also fills hollow and decayed teeth.

Again, Dec. 14th, 1819: D. Greenleaf, Dentist, will continue in business over the office of the *Courant*.

It is reported that he accumulated a large fortune. He died in 1835. His son, Dr. Chas. Greenleaf, was born in Hartford in 1788. He was for years a very successful practitioner, having an office for a time in the Catlin building, corner Main and Asylum streets, and after the Exchange building was built he removed there to rooms No. 1 State street, where he continued until his death in 1843. His sons, James M. and David were born in Hartford and after his death they continued in business in the same rooms until 1852, when Dr. David Greenleaf went west, settling for a time in Peoria, Ill. Dr. David died in California in 1893. Dr. James continued in business until his death in 1877.

**1817.** July 29th. C. V. Jerome Smith, Dentist, will continue in the city a short time. Room over Mr. Col-

ton's confectionery store. Open in the morning at sunrise, for the accommodation of those who cannot attend at other hours.

**1819.** Oct. 26th. Dr. Hawley, Dentist, of New York, will stay in the city a short time. Recommended by Professors of the Medical Institute, New Haven.

From 1819 on, there seems to have been no new advertisement or notice of any new arrival, the Drs. Greenleaf evidently holding the field until June 22nd, 1830, when we find the advertisement of Dr. J. W. Crane, Dentist, Exchange Building.

**1828.** Dr. Zerah Hawley located in New Haven.

**1829.** F. L. Morell, Surgeon Dentist, from Paris, France, made a visit to New Haven about 1829, and had his office in the Tontine Hotel, later he occupied an office in the building corner of Chapel and Orange streets and decided to make New Haven his home. Dr. Morell is remembered for his neatness, sympathy and skill as an operator. He practiced in New Haven for more than twenty years when he returned to his native country.

**1830.** Dr. John J. Stone located in New Haven and remained for several years.

**1832.** Dr. Jerome B. Wheat was born in Glastonbury, Conn., April, 1809; commenced to practice at the age of 17 years; removed to New Haven in 1832, and was the first Dentist to own his home, which was situated on Chapel street, next west of the Center Church Chapel. Dr. Wheat received instruction for a time from Drs. Brewster and D. C. Ambler of New York. Owing to ill health he removed to Philadelphia and practiced there for four years, returning to New Haven where he carried on a large and successful practice for many years. Among his students while in New

Haven was Dr. Chas. C. Allen, of the famous Allen family of Dentists. Dr. Wheat claims that he was the original inventor of the Dental vulcanite plates and that he can prove that he had several sets inserted in his patients' mouths before Cummings knew of the existence of such an article, but the promptness of Cummings in obtaining a caveat deprived him of his right as the inventor. Dr. Chas. Merritt, now of New York, writes me that in 1837 he considered Dr. Wheat to be the best filler of teeth in New England, and only equalled by Drs. Harwood and Tucker, of Boston. Later, Dr. Wheat removed to New York City, where he practiced for a few years, retiring from active practice in 1882 ; died in New Haven, 1894, aged 86.

**1830.** Charles C. Allen, M. D., commenced to practice dentistry in Norwich about 1830, remaining there until 1845, when he removed to New York, No. 13 Park Place, and was associated with Dr. Geo. E. Hawes for several years. Dr. Allen was editor of the *New York Dental Recorder* from 1847 until 1852. Died 1857.

**1839.** Dr. Wm. H. Allen, studied with Drs. Hawes and Allen in New York in 1839. After completing his studies he located in Norwich, remaining until the winter of 1849, when on account of ill health he spent the winter in the Southern states, and for the same cause he went to Montevideo, Buenos Ayres, and practiced for part of the year 1852. On regaining good health he returned to Norwich and practiced with marked success for seventeen years. At the request of his brother, Dr. Charles C. Allen, he removed to New York City in 1856, and was associated with him up to the time of his death in 1857. Dr. Allen obtained several patents for inventions that were noticeable for their simplicity of construction, he having a special

talent for mechanical work. Dr. Wm. H. Allen early in his career gained a national reputation for his skill in restoring broken down and worn teeth to their normal length and contour with gold. He was one of the incorporators, and for several years was President of the Board of Trustees of the New York Dental College, and he also delivered the first clinical lecture in that institution. He was President of the First District Dental Society of New York, a life member of the State Dental Society, corresponding and associate member of several other societies, and was President of the American Dental Association in 1863. Died 1882.

**1845.** Dr. A. W. Allen practiced in Norwich in 1845. Removed to New York in 1863. Died 1869.

**1844.** Dr. E. M. Allen practiced in Norwich in 1844, went South in 1845, returned to Norwich in 1866 for one year, returned to the South where he is still living in Marietta, Georgia.

**1830.** Dr. David Knapp located in Danbury.

**1830.** Dr. Wm. P. Stevens located in Danbury.

**1830-67.** Alfred T. Sizer practiced in New London.

**1830-34.** Dr. John W. Crane was born in Connecticut, graduated from the Castleton Medical College, Vermont, and practiced medicine for a time in Hartford, later studied dentistry with Drs. Cogswell and Flagg; in Boston; returning to Hartford, he practiced dentistry until 1834, when he removed to New York City and opened an office in Park Place. He was the writer of a paper on filling teeth, published in vol. 8 of the American Journal of Dental Science, New York, 1847; also a work entitled "Vade Mecum" or brief remarks on the Treatment of Teeth, Eyes, etc. Dr. Crane was a skillful operator and an ingenious mechanic and was in prac-

tice for forty years. He died in Hartford, April 11th, 1870. His son, Dr. John W. Crane, Jr., was born in Connecticut and has practiced in Paris, France, for the past thirty-five years. He has been very successful and was one of the founders of the American Dental Society of Europe, holding for a time the office of President.

**1833.** Dr. David A. Keyes located in Danbury.

**1834.** Dr. L. Parmele was born in Connecticut. He commenced to practice as early as 1834 in Wallingford; later he opened offices in Berlin and Meriden, where he practiced for some years, when he removed to New York and was in the office of Dr. J. Smith Dodge, remaining with him for some months, when he removed to Washington, D. C. About 1850 he returned to Connecticut and located for a few years in Middletown, also giving certain days in the week to New Britain, removed to Hartford about 1859 and continued in practice until his death, Aug. 25th, 1877. Dr. Parmele was one of the original members of the State Dental Association. He was a skillful operator and a first class mechanical workman. He was a thorough student and well qualified to instruct students both in theory and practice.

Dr. Joseph H. Smith studied with Dr. Parmele in 1856 and afterwards located in New Haven, practicing there for over thirty years.

**1858.** Dr. Chas. P. Graham was a student in 1858, locating in Middletown, where he has practiced for the past thirty-three years.

**1858.** Dr. Robert Gilbert studied with Dr. Parmele in 1858; was south during the war; returned north and practiced in Hoboken, near New York City.

**1837.** Dr. H. P. Judd was born in Southington, Conn. Studied dentistry with Dr. L. Parmele in 1837,

remaining with him for several years. Practiced for a time in Waterbury and Southington. Returned and practiced for years in Meriden.

**1840.** Dr. Henry Benton was born in Guilford, Conn., in 1820; studied with Dr. Parmele in 1840; commenced to practice in Meriden; removed to Guilford and continued in practice until 1892. He was elected to the Legislature from the town of Guilford in 1871. Died April 15th, 1894.

**1854.** Dr. Wm. Babcock, born in Saybrook, Conn. studied with Dr. Parmele in 1854; removed to Albion, Michigan.

**1856.** Dr. Wm. H. Dibble; studied with Dr. Parmele in 1856; practiced for some years in Middletown.

**1859.** Dr. J. A. Dibble; studied with Dr. Parmele in 1859; practiced for several years in New Haven, and removed to Colorado.

**1861-69.** Dr. J. A. Kelley studied with Dr. L. Parmele in 1861. Practiced for a short time in Hartford, then removed to New York.

**1870.** Geo. L. Parmele, M. D., D. M. D., studied with his father for several years, and graduated from the Long Island Hospital College in 1869, and later received the Dental Degree from Harvard University in 1870. Practiced for one year in Paris, France; and for the past twenty-four years has practiced in Hartford. Dr. Parmele has been an active society man for many years. He is a member of the American Academy of Dental Science, Boston, the Odontological Society of New York, was at one time President of the Connecticut Valley Dental Society and for seventeen years has been the Recording Secretary of the State Dental Association. He was appointed by Governor Morris in 1893 a member



of the Board of Dental Commissioners and was elected by the Board to act as the Official Recorder. He was re-appointed by Governor O. Vincent Coffin, July, 1895.

**1834.** Dr. Foster P. Abbott practiced in Danbury.

**1834.** Dr. Elam Beardsley practiced in Oxford.

**1834.** Dr. C. W. Green practiced in Bridgeport.

**1834.** Dr. H. Crane practiced in Hartford.

**1835.** Dr. W. S. Crane practiced in Hartford; died 1860.

**1835.** Dr. Aaron Gibbs practiced in Bridgeport.

**1835-40.** Dr. Crocker practiced for five years in New London.

**1835.** Dr. Wakefield, London Dentist, for a short time in Hartford.

**1835.** Dr. E. E. Crofoot was born in Conn., in 1811; commenced the practice of Dentistry in Middletown in 1835; removed to Hartford in 1840, and was associated for a few years with V. Cuyler, M. D. About 1854 he engaged in the manufacture of porcelain teeth, which he carried on for a few years. Later he resumed the practice of dentistry, and was notably one of the most skillful mechanical dentists in this country. He made a specialty of fine gold work, with carved teeth for each case, and he taught many students the art of carving and baking porcelain teeth: notably Mr. Jas. Wright, Drs. John Cody and Daniel Dwyer. Dr. Crofoot was the first Treasurer of the Conn. State Dental Association. Died April, 1889; aged 78 years.

**1836.** Dr. Horace Wells; his parents were of Connecticut birth. Soon after their marriage they removed to Hartford, Windsor County, Vermont, where Horace Wells was born. Much of his early education was acquired in Amherst, Mass., and Walpole, N. H. In later



years he taught one district school and many writing schools. He early showed great inventive genius and mechanical talent, and while living in Hartford was well known as quite an inventor. He constructed several machines that would probably have paid if properly pushed on the market.

In the year 1834 he commenced the study of dentistry in Boston, Mass. After acquiring the best professional education attainable at that time he opened an office in Boston. In 1836 he removed to Hartford, Conn., and soon acquired a reputation for marked ability and skill as a dentist. He had several students, among them, Drs. John M. Riggs and W. T. G. Morton. Dr. Wells wrote a treatise, entitled an "Essay on Teeth." He also gave lectures on Ornithology, in which he was well informed.

The facts relating to his discovery of Anæsthesia are given in the paper published in this pamphlet, as read at the Union Meeting of the Conn. Valley Dental Society and the Connecticut State Dental Association, held at Hartford, May, 1893.

**1836.** Dr. Charles' Merritt was born in Redding, Conn., May 1st, 1814. Commenced the study of dentistry at the age of 19 years with his brother who was practicing at that time in Pittsburgh, Penn. After the death of his brother, he returned to Connecticut and practiced in different towns until the Spring of 1837, when he decided to locate in Bridgeport. Bridgeport had at that time 4,500 inhabitants. Dr. Aaron Gibbs had been in practice there about eight months, and, learning that Dr. Merritt intended to locate there, he offered to sell out to him and Dr. Merritt bought his practice.

Dr. Gibbs had been a student with Dr. C. W. Green,

a graduate in medicine and a native of Connecticut, who had the reputation of being a skillful dentist having spent parts of the years 1834-35-36 practicing in Bridgeport. Dr. Merritt had the field for about five years, when Dr. W. M. Curtis located in the town remaining for fifteen years. He died in 1889 in Vermont. In 1837, Dr. D. L. Porter studied with Dr. Merritt, remaining with him until 1840, when he went to Newburgh, New York. He returned to Bridgeport, remaining in practice until 1848, when, on account of a permanent lameness, he felt obliged to give up operating at the chair. He secured the services of the late Dr. J. M. Crowell of New York to come to Bridgeport, and give him instructions how to carve and bake block teeth. After experimenting for a time he commenced in 1857 manufacturing single and gum teeth. He employed a number of hands and was very successful making what were considered at that time to be the best and most natural looking porcelain teeth in the market. Dr. Porter died suddenly of heart disease in 1868 and the business was abandoned. Dr. Merritt continued to practice in Bridgeport until 1865, when he removed to New York City, leaving for a time the Bridgeport office in charge of his sons Drs. Chas. G. and John P. Merritt. They are now associated with their father in New York city but go back to Bridgeport part of the time to take care of their patients in that city. Dr. Charles Merritt is probably the oldest practicing dentist in the country. He is still in good health, and attends to the office duties several hours daily.

**1836.** Dr. Linus T. Pratt practiced in Hartford.

**1836.** Dr. J. W. Crane practiced in Hartford.

**1837.** Dr. D. L. Porter practiced in Bridgeport.

**1837.** Vernon Cuyler, M. D., practiced in Hartford

until 1841, when he became a partner with Dr. E. E. Crofoot.

**1838.** Dr. Chas. Greenleaf practiced in Hartford.

**1838.** Dr. J. Weed practiced in Hartford.

**1838.** Dr. Foster P. Abbott was born in Danbury in 1815 ; practiced a few years in Danbury previous to 1840, when he removed to Derby, Conn., where he continued to practice until his death, March 5th, 1863. His son, Dr. J. J. Abbott, for the past thirty-two years has practiced in Danbury.

**1839.** Dr. Robert Patton practiced for nearly fifty years in Ellington ; was elected a member of the House of Representatives in 1868, and in 1880 was elected a member of the State Senate. Died Dec. 28, 1891 ; aged 75 years.

**1839-41.** Dr. J. W. Clowes commenced to study dentistry in the fall of 1838, in the office of Dr. J. Smith Dodge, New York City, remaining with him until the fall of 1839, when he went to Baltimore to attend the first course of lectures given in the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery under Professors Hayden, Harris, Bond and Bailey, in 1840.

The members of that memorable class were Robert Arthur, R. Covington Makall, J. B. Servier, Mr. Paine and J. W. Clowes.

June 10th, 1842, Dr. Clowes opened an office on State street, New London, and continued practicing in that city until the fall of 1849, when he went to Columbus, Georgia, to spend the winter ; returning he located in New York City, in the Spring of 1850.

The honorary degree was conferred on Dr. Clowes by the Faculty of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1846, and the record of the past fifty-six years tells of

earnest efforts, conscientious and skillful work, that has gained for him respect, reputation, many grateful patients and well-earned honors, that his brother practitioners gladly accord to him. Dr. Clowes is the only surviving dentist of that first class of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, and at the age of 73 years he still continues in active practice in New York City.

**1840.** Dr. John M. Riggs was born in Seymour, Conn., Oct. 25, 1810. He graduated from Washington, now Trinity College, in 1837, and soon after commenced to study dentistry with Dr. Horace Wells, and continued to practice in Hartford until his death. He was associated in 1842 with C. Kirtland for a short time, and in 1865 with Dr. Daniel Dwyer for twelve years. On the 11th of December, 1844, he extracted a tooth for Dr. Horace Wells while he was under the influence of Nitrous Oxide Gas administered by Prof. G. Q. Colton. This was the first application of anæsthesia in surgery, antedating by nearly two years Dr. Morton's use of sulphuric ether.

Dr. Riggs gave a clinic before the Conn. Valley Dental Society, at Northampton, in June, 1867, and also gave a description of his method of treating and operating for the condition now known as *Pyorrhœa Alveolaris*, but which for a time was called by his name, "Riggs' Disease."

Dr. Riggs was a member of the Conn. Dental Association; elected President in 1867; also a member of the Conn. Valley Dental Society. He was given the Honorary degree by the Baltimore Dental College in 1879. He died in Hartford, Nov. 11th, 1885; aged 79 years.

**1840.** Dr. D. W. Peterson practiced in Winsted.

**1840.** Dr. O. C. Crosby practiced in New Haven for

many years ; was the inventor of a pin machine, a paper folder, a fish hook machine, a ruffler and tucking machine and was engaged for a time in the manufacture of porcelain teeth.

**1840.** Dr. W. H. Allen practiced in Norwich.

**1840.** Dr. Henry Benton practiced in Meriden and Guilford and was representative from the town of Guilford in 1871. Died April, 1894.

**1841.** Dr. S. S. Tuller was born in Simsbury, Conn., in 1816. Commenced to practice in the Town of Granby in 1841, giving to the neighboring towns stated days in each month for twenty-six years. Staid one week in each month in Unionville. Removed to Winsted in 1867. For a while was obliged on account of ill health to take a rest, spending a few months in the West. With that exception he practiced in Connecticut for fifty-five years until his death Jan. 3rd, 1896.

**1841.** Drs. Cuyler and Crofoot practiced in Hartford.

**1841.** Dr. W. M. Curtis practiced in Bridgeport.

**1841.** Dr. Asa Hill was born in Norwalk, Conn., Nov. 20th, 1815. He studied dentistry with Dr. David P. Knapp, of Danbury, and later commenced to practice in Norwalk, where he continued up to the time of his death. Dr. Hill received the honorary degree from the Baltimore Dental College in 1847. He was one of the editors of the New York Dental Recorder during the years 1851-52-53, and was associated with the late Dr. W. W. Allport in the editorial management of the Peoples' Journal published in Chicago, Ill., in 1863. He introduced to the profession the plastic compound for filling teeth known as, "Hill's Stopping" in 1847, and patented it in 1848. As early as 1851, Dr. Hill suggested electric or galvanic anæsthesia in dental and surgical operations ; but

its first practical application was by J. B. Francis in Philadelphia. It was experimented with for some time, both in dental and medical practice, but soon lost its popularity, it being found uncertain in action and generally unreliable. Dr. Hill was the first president of the Connecticut State Dental Association, organized in 1864. In May, 1866, Dr. Hill sent a petition to the president and faculty of Yale College asking them to consider his plea for the establishment of a dental school in connection with the medical department of Yale College. Dr. Hill was a member of the General Assembly of Connecticut as a representative from Norwalk in 1856. He died in Norwalk, 1874.

**1842.** Dr. J. A. Pelton ; was born in Portland, Conn. Commenced to practice dentistry in Haddam, Conn., in 1842; removed to Willimantic in 1843. At that time there was no other dentist in the eastern part of the State. He removed to Middletown in 1845, and continued in active practice there until the time of his death in 1894. Dr. Pelton was a successful mechanical workman, when that meant ability to work with gold and silver. Accurate adaptation in the mouth and the use of spiral springs, were the only aids to keep in place upper and lower sets of teeth that could be depended on previous to the introduction of the air chamber by Mr. Gilbert in 1848. Dr. Pelton was among the first to test and prove the great value of this invention to both the patient and dentist. Dr. Pelton was among the first to give anæsthetics in his practice, and continued to do so for years with uniform good success. Dr. Pelton died August 26th, 1894, leaving an honorable record of fifty-two years' practice in the State of Connecticut.

**1842.** Dr. Merriman practiced for a few years in Middletown ; later removed to New York City.



**1842.** Dr. Jas. M. Greenleaf practiced in Hartford.

**1842.** Dr. L. W. Rogers practiced in New London.

**1842.** Dr. J. A. G. Comstock practiced in New London.

**1842.** Dr. Main, traveling dentist; later practiced in New York.

**1844.** Dr. Wm. B. Hurd practiced in Danbury and Derby. Dr. Hurd was a student of Dr. Knapp in Danbury in 1844 ; later was an assistant, and then taken into partnership. Dr. Hurd practiced for five years in Derby and for five years in Danbury ; removed in 1854 to Williamsburgh, now Brooklyn, New York. Dr. Hurd was elected an honorary member of the Conn. State Dental Association in 1865.

**1845.** Dr. Stevens practiced in Essex.

**1845.** Dr. Richardson located in Middletown.

**1845.** Dr. J. B. Terry located in Hartford.

**1845.** Dr. David Greenleaf located in Essex.

**1846.** Dr. J. H. Reed, with Dr. W. S. Crane, located in Hartford ; later removed to New Haven.

**1846.** Dr. R. B. Curtiss studied with Dr. Chas. Merritt in Bridgeport in 1846 ; removed to Winsted and practiced there until his death in 1866. Dr. Curtiss was one of the early members of the Conn. State Dental Association;

Dr. Dwight Smith, a native of Winsted, studied with Dr. Curtiss; removed to New York City.

**1846.** Dr. Samuel Mallet was born in Redding, Conn.; was a student with Dr. Porter of Bridgeport, in 1846; later he located in New Haven, having an office on Chapel street. Dr. Mallet practiced with good success for about thirty years; was one of the original



members of the Conn. State Dental Association, and was elected President in 1869.

**1847.** Dr. A. H. Fagan located in Middletown; practiced forty-eight years in Connecticut; died 1895.

**1847.** Dr. W. G. Munson practiced in New Haven as early as 1847, continuing for about twenty-three years. He was also known as a landscape painter of much merit.

**1847.** Dr. C. Bullock practiced in Hartford.

(Copy of advertisement.)

**1847.** Hiram Preston, Dental Surgeon, practiced in Hartford. "Invites all who would have dental operations performed in a style not to be surpassed, to favor him with a call at No. 12 State street."

Dr. M. Waldo Hanchett was associated with Dr. Preston from 1850 to 1854. Dr. Hanchett while practicing in Syracuse, N. Y., in 1848, invented and introduced the first dental chair that could be easily raised and lowered, the back and seat tipped forward, and back with changeable head rest, and nearly all the good points of the chair of our day.

Jan. 8th, 1857. The following announcement was published in the daily papers: Hiram Preston, Dentist, over No. 18 State street, continues the practice of dentistry as heretofore; he will also give lessons to dentists who have had some experience, and who wish to become more perfect in practice. He will be assisted as heretofore by Mr. Jas. McManus, who has been with him during the last nine years, and who as a dental operator deserves a high place among the very best in the city. For the satisfaction of such, if any there be, who may live at a distance, he deems it proper to insert the following testimonial relative to his capacity:

"Having employed the professional services of Hiram

Preston, Dentist, of this city, and being well acquainted with his skill as a practical operator, we believe him qualified to give instruction to those who wish to become masters in every department of this important, but nice, and difficult art."

H. Allen Grant, M. D.	George Sumner, M. D.
S. B. Berresford, "	Benjamin Rogers, "
A. W. Barrows, "	M. W. Wilson, "
J. S. Butler, "	P. W. Ellsworth, "
D. Crary, "	J. C. Jackson, "
A. Welch, "	G. W. Russell, "
Wm. Porter, "	John F. Wells, "
S. C. Preston, "	
A. Rising, M. D.,	Suffield.
E. Hall, "	East Hartford.
M. Woodruff, "	New Britain.
S. L. Childs, "	East Hartford.
S. A. Wilson, "	Windsor.
Albert Morrison, "	Windsor.

1858. "The *Hartford Evening Press*, June 1st, 1858, announced the news that Dr. Preston has been successful in extracting teeth without pain by the use of a galvanic battery. In one hand the patient holds a conductor of moderate strength, the other conductor being attached to one handle of the forceps; when the forceps are applied the current passes through the tooth, numbing the nerves and deadening the pain. The effect is produced at the moment it is needed, and continues not an instant longer than the operation. The doctor has this forenoon pulled three teeth in this manner, and, the patients assure him, without pain."

Oct. 11th, 1858. Dr. Preston announces that he has secured Mr. James McManus as a partner in business, and also states the firm are using Electricity in an entirely new way for preventing pain while drawing teeth. Oct. 27th, 1858, Dr. Preston claims to have invented

and adopted a new method which is originally and exclusively his own. The new way is to apply a piece of wet sponge on each side of the tooth to be extracted, the sponges being connected with electric wires to be held by the patient or an assistant. In an editorial notice the record of forty-eight cases are given, forty-four completely successful, the other four partially so.

During the twenty odd years that Dr. Preston practiced in Hartford he taught a number of students who later either were associated with him in business, or opened offices in Hartford. Among the number were Drs. Chas. O. Hall, Jas. McManus, Wm. Blatchley, Daniel Dwyer, John L. Hitchcock and several others, who received shorter terms of instruction from him, for he was known to be an unusually skillful and expert operator, as well as a superior mechanical workman. He wrote a series of letters giving instruction and advice as to care and operations on the teeth that appeared in the city papers and were afterwards published in book form in 1848, and dedicated "To that portion of the community who think."

**1848.** Dr. James McManus, born in Hartford, July 16th, 1836; entered the office of Dr. Hiram Preston in 1848, continuing with him as a student, assistant and partner during twenty years, when Dr. Preston retired from business and removed to Syracuse, N. Y. Drs. McManus and L. D. Pelton issued a call Sept. 15th, 1864, to the dentists of Connecticut to meet at Hartford in Central Hall, Oct. 20th, 1864, to assist in organizing a State Dental Association. Dr. McManus was elected the Recording Secretary, holding that office for several years and has continued an active member since its organization. In 1870 he inaugurated the movement that resulted in placing a bronze statue of Dr. Horace

Wells, the Discoverer of Anæsthesia, on Bushnell Park ; was elected President of the State Association in 1871, and acted as chairman of the committee that was appointed in 1890 to secure the passage of a Dental Law ; was appointed by Governor Morris, July, 1893, one of the Board of Dental Commissioners which office he declined. Dr. McManus has been a member of the American Dental Association for thirty-two years, the Connecticut Valley Dental Society, the Boston American Academy of Dental Science, the New York Odontological Society, the Seventh International Medical Congress, London, England, Honorary Member American Dental Society of Europe, the Ninth Medical Congress, Washington, D. C., the Columbian Dental Congress, Chicago, Ill., and President of the Northeastern Dental Society of New England. Dr. McManus graduated from the Philadelphia Dental College in the Class 1864-65, and is practicing in Hartford. Has associated with him his sons Charles McManus, D. D. S., Philadelphia Dental College, 1888 ; Henry McManus, D. D. S., Philadelphia Dental College, 1890.

**1853.** Dr. Chas. O. Hall, a native of East Hartford, Conn., entered the office of Dr. Hiram Preston as a student and assistant in 1853, remaining for several years. Attended the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery and graduated in 1860 ; returned to Hartford and practiced for a short time ; later located in Nice, France, where he practiced for nearly thirty years, giving occasional months in Paris, France, and the summer months in Switzerland. Dr. Hall was one of the pioneer American dentists in Europe and sustained a very high reputation as an all around dentist as well as a cultured gentleman. He died at Nice, Nov. 29th, 1893, aged 61 years.

**1856.** Dr. Wm. Blatchley was a student in 1856-57 with Dr. Preston and after opened an office in Hartford and practiced successfully nearly twenty years.

**1858.** Dr. Daniel Dwyer was a student in 1858 with Drs. Preston and McManus, remaining two years; after with Dr. E. E. Crofoot for three years and later was associated with Dr. John L. Hitchcock in Collinsville, Conn., until 1865, when he became a partner with Dr. J. M. Riggs in Hartford, continuing with him for about twelve years. When the partnership was dissolved, Dr. Dwyer carried on the business at the office on Asylum St. In 1882 he went to the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery and graduated in 1883. Dr. Dwyer was a first class man in every department of dentistry; was a member of the American Dental Association, State and local societies, ever ready to work and give a helping hand to every movement for the good of the profession. He was highly respected by the citizens of Hartford and vicinity. He died Nov. 7, 1891.

**1860.** Dr. John L. Hitchcock commenced the study of dentistry in 1860 with Drs. Preston and McManus, remaining three years; then removed to Collinsville, Conn., and was associated with Dr. Daniel Dwyer for several years, when he returned to Hartford and practiced until 1882. He attended the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery and graduated in 1883. He then returned to Hartford staying a few years, when he removed to New York city, where he still continues in practice.

**1848-51.** Dr. Gilbert Warren practiced from 1848-51 in New London.

**1848.** Feb., 1848, Levi Gilbert, a confectioner living in New Haven, obtained a patent for atmospheric pressure plates, in which the following is claimed:—

“ My invention is the application of atmospheric pressure to

plates used in dentistry ; the plate being single and a chamber being sunk in the central part of the upper surface of the plate, in which a vacuum can be formed by the tongue."

Upon the publication of this patent many claimants for priority of this invention made themselves known. He eventually abandoned his patent. "A committee was appointed by the Penn.Society of Dental Surgeons to investigate the merits of the Gilbert plate and in their report they recommended that a certificate of approval of the central cavity plate should be awarded by the Society to Mr. Gilbert, which action and recommendation was ratified. . . . The construction of cavity plates was the first application of the veritable principles of atmospheric pressure in dentistry, and it has become an integral part of mechanical dentistry."

**1848.** Dr. T. P. Abell located in Middletown ; remained there about five years, then removed to Chicago, Illinois.

**1848.** Dr. Wm. Jarvis Rider studied with Dr. Wm. B. Hurd in Danbury in 1848 ; Dr. Rider still resides in Danbury and has been in practice for forty-six years. He has been an active member of the State Dental Association, holding different offices and for two terms its President. He was one of the active workers in securing the passage of a dental law in Connecticut and was appointed by the Governor, July, 1892, one of the State Dental Commissioners. His son, Wm. Harvey Rider, M. D. S., is associated with him in Danbury.

**1848.** The following named dentists were practicing in New Haven, in 1848 : Drs. E. B. Cowles ; Samuel Mallett, W. G. Munson, E. E. Crofoot, Edward B. Miller, Wm. M. Thompson, C. O. Crosby, Louis J. Morrell, Jerome B. Wheat.



**1848-1850.** Dr. Gilbert Warner ; practiced in New London.

**1849.** Dr. Edwin Hyde Dunham practiced in Wilimantic ; and in Middletown, Conn., after 1850, for several years.

**1849.** Dr. Amos Blake practiced in Waterbury for some years previous to 1850, giving up his office to his brother, Edward W. Blake, who succeeded him in 1852.

**1850.** Dr. Bailey practiced in Colchester. Drs. Bailey and Newton practiced in Waterbury previous to 1850. Dr. A. Newton removed to Hartford in 1851.

**1850.** Dr. R. G. Reynolds, practiced in Waterbury for a time; removing to New York in 1852.

**1850.** Dr. M. Waldo Hanchett, in company with Dr. H. Preston; practiced in Hartford.

**1850.** Dr. Geo. H. Waters was born in Woodstock, Conn., Feb. 27th, 1824 ; commenced the study of dentistry March, 1849, in the office of Dr. Joseph Beals, of Greenfield, Mass. In 1850, located in New Britain, remaining there until Oct. 1st, 1852, when he removed to Waterbury. In the past forty-two years he has resided in that city, and by honest and skillful work he has gained the respect and esteem of the community ; and though his record stands "Three score years and ten, with good health and spirits, he is able and still enjoys continuing in active practice."

**1850.** Dr. S. Tomlinson practiced in Plainville.

**1851.** Dr. Daniel A. Jones practiced in Danielsonville. Studied dentistry with Dr. R. B. Curtiss in Winsted about 1851. Commenced to practice in 1852 and for a time made Winsted his home, arranging to make regular visits to the towns of Otis, New Boston, New Hartford and Ansonia. In 1855 he decided to locate in Danielsonville, and he practiced there until his death in 1864.



**1854.** Mrs. Emeline Roberts Jones, wife of Dr. Daniel A. Jones, was born in Winchester, Conn. She commenced to study dentistry with her husband in 1854 and for a time received instruction from Dr. R. B. Curtiss of Winsted. She continued as an assistant from May, 1855 until 1859, when she became a partner in the business with her husband, and for years was known in Danielsonville as a skillful dentist. After her husband's death in 1864, she carried on the business until she removed to New Haven where she continues in active practice. Mrs. Dr. Jones ranks to-day as the pioneer woman dentist of this country if not of the world. There may have been other women who assisted in dental offices previous to 1855, but she was the first woman in this country to open independently an office and offer her services to the public as a competent dentist.

**1889.** Dr. Daniel A. Jones was born in Barkhamstead, Conn. Studied dentistry with his mother for three years before entering the Harvard Dental School. Received the Harvard degree in 1889, and the medical degree of Yale College in 1890. Has practiced in New Haven the past seven years, and for several years has been Treasurer of the Conn. State Dental Association.

**1850.** Dr. Elisha K. Cook practiced in Norwich.

**1850.** Dr. C. Bullock practiced in Hartford,

**1850.** Drs. Hiram Preston and M. Waldo Hanchett practiced in Hartford.

**1850.** Dr. L. Parmele practiced in Hartford.

**1851.** Dr. Asa Newton, with Dr. J. B. Terry, practiced in Hartford.

**1852.** Dr. S. L. G. Crane, with Dr. W. S. Crane, practiced in Hartford.

**1852.** Dr. Henry J. Stevens practiced in New Haven.

**1852.** Dr. Albert W. Crawford practiced in Putnam.

**1852.** Dr. W W Sheffield was born in North Stonington, Conn., in 1828; studied dentistry with Dr. J. A. G. Comstock of New London, and Dr. Charles C. Allen of New York City. He was one of the original members of the Conn. State Dental Association; served as president one year, 1868, and was for years an active and efficient member. He graduated from the Ohio Dental College in 1865, and has been in practice in the city of New London for the past forty-four years.

**1852.** Dr. Reynolds practiced a few years in Waterbury; removed to New York.

**1853.** Dr. Charles O. Hall practiced about ten years in Hartford.

**1853.** Dr. Henry A. Nettleton, born in Woodbury, Conn., 1828; studied with Drs. Abbot and Tuttle in Derby, has been in practice forty-one years; the past thirty-seven years in Derby, Conn.

**1854.** Dr. C. H. Davis practiced in Hartford.

**1854.** Dr. A. Schoonmaker has practiced over forty years in Bethel, Conn.

**1854.** Dr. R C. Dunham was born in Mansfield, Connecticut, 1827; studied dentistry with Dr. Edwin Dunham, Middletown, remaining with him four years. Dr. Dunham was one of the original members of the State Association; served one year as President, 1873, and has practiced in the State forty-three years, residing the past thirty-nine years in New Britain, Conn. Died 1895.

**1855 = 60.** Dr. Louis Betts practiced about five years in New London.

**1855.** Dr. Ezra Styles practiced in Norwich. .

**1855.** Dr. Theodore Roberts born in Danbury, in 1827 ; has practiced thirty-nine years in New Canaan.

**1855.** Dr. James M. Greenleaf practiced in Hartford ; office Exchange corner.

**1856.** Dr. H. L. Burpee practiced a few years in Hartford.

**1856.** Dr. John Cody, born in Hartford ; studied with Dr. E. E. Crofoot, remaining with him about ten years, having charge of the mechanical department. He was especially skillful in the carving of block teeth and was a fine worker in gold and silver. He opened an office in 1856 and conducted a successful business until his death in 1876.

**1856.** Dr. Perrine practiced for several years in New London, then removed to New York City.

**1856.** Dr. R. Wentworth Browne studied dentistry with Dr. W. W. Sheffield in New London, Conn. He graduated from the New York College of Dentistry in 1867. He was one of the original members of the State Association and served one year, 1878, as President. Gov. Morris appointed him one of the Board of Dental Commissioners, July, 1893. He was re-appointed by Gov. O. Vincent Coffin in July, 1895. He has resided in New London the past thirty-eight years and is in active practice.

**1856.** Dr. Isaac Woolworth practiced medicine for some time in Westfield, Mass ; later studied dentistry and commenced in 1856 to practice in Meriden. He removed to New Haven in 1860. Dr. Woolworth was one of the original members of the State Association ; was elected President in 1872. He read several interesting papers before the Association and was an earnest and active member until his death in 1879.

**1857.** Dr. Joseph H. Smith was born in Middletown, Conn.; studied for a short time in 1856, with Dr. L. Parmele in Middletown. Dr. Smith opened an office in New Haven in 1857 and for several years gave special attention to artificial work. He gave up the use of rubber for plates when the vulcanite company insisted that a record should be kept of all cases made, and a royalty paid for the same, and turned his attention to making continuous gum work. He was quite successful in combining materials for gum body and was skillful in carving and baking block teeth for metal work. Familiarity with this line of work led him to engage in the manufacture of Smith's Oxy-chloride of Zinc in 1862, which he did under the personal instruction and following the formula given to the profession in the Dental Cosmos, August, 1861, by Dr. John T. Metcalf of New Haven. In June, 1863, Dr. Smith attended a lecture given by Prof. G. Q. Colton in New Haven and witnessed him give the laughing gas. He then arranged with Prof. Colton to extract teeth for patients if the professor would give the gas, and they were so successful that in the month of June Dr. Smith extracted 1785 teeth. The record made in this public manner revived confidence in the gas as a safe anæsthetic and since that time its use is well nigh universal. Dr. Smith was secretary and treasurer of the American Dental Convention for several years; also a member of the American Dental Association, president of the Connecticut Valley Dental Society, one of the original members of the State Dental Association, was for a few years its recording secretary and later held the office of treasurer. Died 1893.

**1857.** Dr. C. M. Hooker practiced in Hartford for about twelve years. He was a fine operator and a skillful mechanic. He invented an automatic mallet, and

for several years gave special attention to the administration of anæsthetics.

**1857.** Dr. H. L. Sage, Bridgeport, commenced the practice of dentistry in 1857. Dr. Sage is remembered as a careful, conscientious and skillful operator; a thoughtful student, giving much of his time to investigating the properties of various drugs that he thought might be of value as dental medicines and obtundents. He put on the market in 1873 the preparation known as Carvacrol, which was considered of value by many operators. He was one of the original members of the State Dental Association and was elected president in 1870. He was a member of the American Dental Association. Died March 17, 1880.

**1857.** Dr. Joseph Dennis Riggs was born in Woodbridge, Conn., 1833. Studied dentistry with Dr. C. O. Crosby, New Haven, remaining with him three years, and has practiced in New Haven for the past thirty-nine years.

**1857.** Dr. Edward C. Arnold practiced in Moodus and Hartford.

**1858.** Dr. Henry D. Sydleman was born in Preston, Conn. Studied dentistry with Dr. W. W. Sheffield, New London, and has practiced for the past thirty-eight years in the city of Norwich, was a member of the State Dental Association for several years.

**1858.** Dr. Sidney L. Geer was born in Scotland, Conn. Studied dentistry with Dr. Elisha K. Cook of Norwich. He was one of the original members of the State Dental Association and has practiced for the past thirty-six years in Norwich.

**1858.** Dr. Elisha Keyes Robbins was born in Ashford, Conn. Studied dentistry with Dr. Joshua Bailey,

Colchester, Conn. Has practiced forty years, thirty-seven years in Connecticut.

**1858.** Dr. Charles F. E. Blood has practiced in New London for the past thirty-nine years.

**1858.** Dr. Walter A. Candee practiced in Bristol.

**1859.** Dr. E. Treat Payne was born in Prospect, Conn., 1838. Studied dentistry in 1859 in the office of Dr. Walter A. Candee, Bristol, Conn., after one year entered the office of Dr. Asa Hill of Norwalk, remaining with him until he enlisted in the 27th Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers, nine months' service until Aug. 1, 1863. Opened an office in Stamford, Conn., and continued in practice until July, 1879. Was a member of the State Dental Association and president in 1876-'77; later graduated from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery and removed to New York City in 1880.

**1859.** Dr. William Allender practiced in New London.

**1859.** Dr. F. C. Buckland practiced in Manchester.

**1859.** Dr. C. L. Smith practiced in New Haven.

**1859.** Dr. Russell Arnold, Moodus, studied with Dr. Edward C. Arnold, has been in practice thirty-seven years, the past thirty-four in Connecticut.

**1859.** Dr. S. L. G. Crane studied dentistry with his father, Dr. W. S. Crane, was in company with him and has been in practice thirty-eight years in Hartford.

**1859.** Dr. John T. Metcalf commenced to practice dentistry in Nantucket, Mass., in 1840, remaining there for nineteen years, when he removed to New Haven in 1859. While in New Haven he made experiments in developing plastic filling materials, and published the results of his labors in the Dental Cosmos Aug. 1, 1861, pages 6-17, giving to the profession his formula for



making oxy chlorid of zinc, which preparation later was manufactured by Dr. Joseph H. Smith and sold to the profession as Smith's Oxy-chlorid of Zinc. Dr. Metcalf was the first one to teach and practice contouring with gold in New Haven. He organized the New Haven Dental Association, was its president, was one of the original members of the State Association and president in 1866; removed to New York in 1869 and is still in practice.

**1860.** Dr. Wm. H. Sharpe was born in Killingly, Conn., in 1836. Studied dentistry with Dr. Albert W. Crawford in Putnam, Conn. Has practiced in Putnam for the past thirty-six years.

**1860.** Dr. Augustus B. Smith studied dentistry with Dr. Samuel Mallett of New Haven. Has practiced for the past thirty-six years in New Haven.

**1860.** Dr. A. H. Stevens, born in Clinton, practiced for two years with H. J. Stevens, D. D. S., of New Haven; in Clinton thirty-four years.

**1860.** Dr. Smith Colton practiced in Meriden.

**1860.** Dr. G. B. Boutwell practiced in Ansonia.

**1860.** Dr. Franklin J. Candee practiced in Plymouth for some time before the late war. Enlisted in the Second Heavy Artillery, was promoted to be second lieutenant in Company H, and was killed in the battle of Cold Harbor, June 1, 1864.

#### DENTISTS IN NEW HAVEN IN 1861.

Dr. C. O. Crosby, 1848-61,	Dr. W. G. Munson, 1848-70
" J. A. Dibble, "	" J. D. Riggs, 1861-70
" C. L. Ely, "	" J. H. Reed, "
" N. S. Gunn, "	" A. B. Smith, "
" F. Hall, 1870	" J. H. Smith, "
" S. Mallett, 1848-70,	" H. J. Stevens, "



Dr. J. T. Metcalf, 1848-70    Dr. Elias Strong, 1886-70  
 " L. P. Morel, 1848        " J. B. Wheat, 1848-61  
 " E. S. Gaylord, 1870       " I. Woolworth, 1870

**1861.** Dr. Charles P. Graham studied for three years with Dr. L. Parmele in Middletown, was one of the original members of the State Dental Association, was elected president in 1894, and has been in practice in Middletown for thirty-five years. Was appointed by Governor Morris, July, 1893, one of the Board of Dental Commissioners, re-appointed July, 1895, by Governor O. Vincent Coffin. Dr. Graham was for several years brigadier general of the military forces of Connecticut and was adjutant general on the staff of Governor O. Vincent Coffin during 1895-1896.

**1861.** Dr. Leroy D. Pelton practiced in Hartford for about ten years; removed to California.

**1861.** Dr. Wm. M. Porter practiced in Hartford.

**1861.** Dr. F. T. Mercer practiced in Mystic.

**1861.** Dr. James G. Barbour practiced in Norwalk.

**1861.** Dr. T. S. Scranton practiced in Madison.

**1861.** Dr. G. A. Grace practiced in Meriden.

**1861.** Dr. James Woodmansee practiced in Norwich.

**1861.** Dr. H. B. Bishop practiced in Norwich.

**1862.** Dr. C. H. Thornton practiced in Danbury.

**1862.** Dr. J. O. Fitch practiced in Willimantic.

**1862.** Dr. John A. Kelley practiced in Hartford.

**1863.** Dr. C. Bullock and Brother, Dentists; "Mrs. Bullock will be present to assist any lady who desires to take ether." The first public notice that Mrs. Bullock was an assistant in the office of her husband appeared in the *Hartford Courant* Feb. 24th, 1863. Mrs. Bullock previous to this notice had assisted in office work and later she was known as an expert operator and mechanical worker. After the death of her husband she practiced for years with her son, Dr. Henry C. Bullock. She

was the second woman to engage in the practice of dentistry in Connecticut, and among the earliest in the country to make a notable success both professionally and financially.

**1863.** Dr. Isaac N. Russell has practiced the past thirty-two years in Connecticut, the greater part of the time in the city of Waterbury.

**1863.** Dr. Charles Coffin Barker, born in Wakefield, N. H., studied dentistry with John Paul, M. D., Dover, N. H., practiced 1859-61 in Bethel, Maine; has practiced in Meriden for the past thirty-two years. Was elected president of the State Dental Association in 1894, president of the Connecticut Valley Dental Society in 1895, vice-president Northeastern Dental Association in 1895.

**1863.** Dr. Civilion Fones has been a member of the State Dental Association for many years, was elected president in 1890 and served for two years. Was appointed by Governor Luzon B. Morris, July, 1893, one of the Board of Dental Commissioners and at the first meeting was elected President; re-appointed by Governor O. Vincent Coffin, July, 1895. Was elected mayor of the city of Bridgeport in 1886, re-elected in 1887. Graduated from the Baltimore Dental College in 1877, and has practiced in Bridgeport for the past thirty-four years. -- Dr. Alfred C. Fones, born in Bridgeport, graduated from the New York College of Dentistry in 1891, and is associated with his father.

**1864.** Dr. M. T. Nichols practiced in Central Village.

**1864.** Dr. T. S. Rust practiced in Meriden.

**1864.** Dr. Edward S. Gaylord, born in Gaylordsville, Conn., member of the State Dental Association, was elected president in 1892. Member of the Connecticut Valley, New York Odontological, American Dental Associations, and Northeastern Dental Society; in practice in New Haven the past thirty-three years.

**1864.** Drs. James McManus and Leroy D. Pelton, Sept. 15th, 1864, sent out a circular letter inviting the dentists of Connecticut to meet at Hartford in Central Hall, Oct 20th, 1864, to assist in organizing a State Dental Society. Thirty-nine dentists appeared in response to this invitation. A temporary organization was effected by the election of Dr. E. E. Crofoot as President and Dr. James McManus as Secretary. A committee was appointed to report a Constitution and By-Laws, and at the afternoon session they made their report, which was accepted and adopted, and the following named gentlemen were elected officers of the Connecticut State Dental Association :

Dr. Asa Hill,	Norwalk,	<i>President.</i>
Dr. W. W. Sheffield,	New London,	<i>Vice-President.</i>
Dr. Jas. McManus,	Hartford,	<i>Rec. Secretary.</i>
Dr. Leroy D. Pelton,	"	<i>Cor. Secretary.</i>
Dr. E. E. Crofoot,	"	<i>Treasurer.</i>
Dr. Chas. P. Graham,	Middletown,	<i>Librarian.</i>
Dr. Samuel Mallett,	New Haven,	} <i>Executive Com.</i>
Dr. John T. Metcalf,	"	
Dr. H. J. Stevens,	"	

**1864-65.** The transactions of 1864-65 were published in book form in 1866, including the annual address by Asa Hill, D. D. S., of Norwalk, and the papers that were read by Drs. Isaac Woolworth, Samuel Mallett, John T. Metcalf, of New Haven, W. W. Sheffield, of New London, James McManus of Hartford, L. D. Shepard, of Salem, Mass., Prof. Wm. H. Atkinson, M. D., D. D. S. of New York, and Prof. J. McQuillen, M. D., D. D. S., of the Philadelphia Dental College. The interest in the meetings was kept up for several years owing to the fact that the executive committee had the funds to call on, that warranted them in securing the services of noted teachers and operators to give lectures

on scientific and practical subjects. Many of the older members will recall the instructive and delightful talks that were given them by Professors McQuillen, Atkinson, Garretson, Stellwagen, Ellis, Weatherby and Shepard, all eminent in their day as teachers and operators.

**1864-67.** Dr. A. Hill sent a petition to the president and faculty of Yale College early in 1866, asking them to establish a Dental School. At the annual meeting of the State Dental Association in May, 1866, Drs. A. Hill, Samuel Mallett, John M. Riggs, and W. W. Sheffield were appointed a committee to confer with the members of the State Medical Society, with reference to the establishment of a dental department in connection with the medical school at Yale College. The committee reported a pleasant conference and that the medical professors would give the petition due consideration. Their decision was against the establishment of a Dental School.

The managers of Harvard University saw their opportunity when the project was suggested to them by the Boston dentists, and they established the Harvard Dental School in the fall of 1867. Yale College took a back seat in 1866, and still occupies it. For the past thirty years, its medical faculty have not got their eyes opened to the fact, that instruction in medicine and surgery is not complete unless lectures on dental diseases are given to the students by a competent dental surgeon and pathologist.

**1870.** At a meeting of Hartford dentists held Monday evening, April 11th, 1870. Dr. James McManus offered the following :

*Resolved,* That the natural gratitude due to the memory of public benefactors, demands that the city of Hartford, and the State of Connecticut, with the medical and

dental professions, cause a suitable monument to be erected in the public park of this city in memory of Dr. Horace Wells, the discoverer of Anæsthesia.

*Resolved*, That Drs. J. M. Riggs, James McManus, E. E. Crofoot and William Blatchley be, and are hereby, appointed a committee whose duty it shall be to cause suitable petitions to be presented to the City Council of Hartford, and the General Assembly of this State in furtherance of this object, and to obtain signatures to the same.

A petition was drawn up by Thomas McManus, Esq., and circulated for signatures. The newspapers throughout the state and country, the dental and many of the medical journals gave willing help and publicity to the movement. At the annual meeting of the State Dental Association, held in May, 1870, the same resolution was offered by Dr. McManus, and Drs. McManus and Riggs of Hartford and Woolworth of New Haven were appointed to act with committees from other societies for the purpose of procuring funds. At the annual meeting of the State Medical Society in 1870, Henry P. Stearns, M. D., of Hartford was appointed chairman of a committee to co-operate with the dentists, and such other committees as might be appointed to aid in securing funds for the erection of a statue to Dr. Wells. To the earnest, energetic and well directed efforts in presenting the claims of Dr. Wells clearly, concisely, and truthfully to the public great credit is due Dr. Stearns; and his labors were untiring until success was assured. The appeal made to the State Legislature and City Council resulted in a grant of five thousand dollars from the State, and five thousand dollars from the City, to which was added individual contributions from other states and cities, that enabled the committee to secure the services

of Mr. Truman H. Bartlett, sculptor of Boston, who made the satisfactory portrait statue in bronze that was placed on the east side of Bushnell Park, July 22, 1874.

**1875 - 90.** The State Dental Association made a new departure and was incorporated under the Connecticut State Laws in 1876. The new order increased admission fees and annual dues, which proved to be a great mistake. The interest in the meetings lessened, many of the older members dropped out and there were few new applicants for membership. Again the older members were forced to come to the front. The admission fees and annual dues were reduced, efforts were made to arrange for interesting meetings, and there is again hope that the future usefulness of the association is assured.

At the annual meeting in May, 1890, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee on dental legislation: Dr. Civilion Fones, Bridgeport; Dr. James McManus, Hartford; Dr. Edward S. Gaylord, New Haven; Dr. William J. Rider, Danbury; Dr. William H. Rider, Danbury; Dr. R. W. Brown, New London; Dr. George L. Parmele, Hartford.

**1890 - 93.** Judge Thomas McManus was engaged to make a careful study of the dental laws that were then in force in the United States, and to draw up a law for Connecticut that the committee could present to the Legislature and ask for its passage. Owing to the celebrated "dead lock" in the Legislature of 1891, there was no action taken on the bill that was presented by the committee, and the same bill was again presented to the Legislature of 1893. A bill to regulate the practice of medicine was before the Legislature at the same time; that was so fiercely opposed by different factions, and the press, that the success of the dental bill seemed very doubtful. At the committee hearing



the bill was advocated by Judge McManus, Drs. William J. Rider, Edward S. Gaylord, George L. Parmele, James McManus, and by letter from Dr. Civilion Fones. The members of the committee asked many questions, and gave an attentive hearing. There was no one present to oppose the bill, a great contrast to their experience at the several lengthy hearings they gave to the opponents of the medical bill. The dental bill was reported on favorably, and passed, was signed by Governor Morris and went into effect May 25th, 1893.

**1893.** Governor Morris, July, 1893, appointed as dental commissioners Dr. James McManus, Hartford; Dr. William J. Rider, Danbury; Dr. Civilion Fones, Bridgeport; Dr. Charles P. Graham, Middletown; Dr. R. W. Brown, New London. Dr. James McManus declined the appointment and Dr. George L. Parmele of Hartford was appointed to fill the vacancy. The board met in July and elected Dr. Civilion Fones as president, and Dr. George L. Parmele, recorder.

Under the rules established by the dental board of commissioners all dentists residing and practicing in Connecticut previous to May 25th, 1893, were invited to apply for registration and upon complying were given a certificate signed by all the members of the board. All dentists coming into the State and wishing to practice after May 25th, 1893, are required to appear before the board for examination and license. The total number of Dentists legally practicing in Connecticut in 1896 was 374, of this number four are graduates of dental and medical schools and 134 from dental schools. His Excellency, O. Vincent Coffin, governor of Connecticut, July 14, 1895, re-appointed the members of the board to hold the offices until July 1st, 1897.

The following named dentists have been members of



the Connecticut General Assembly, the record starting with the election of Dr. Asa Hill of Norwalk as member of the House of Representatives in 1856.

Dr. Chas. W. Ballard practiced in New York City but lived in Darien, Conn. Member Senate 1865-66.

Dr. Robert Patton, Ellington, Member House 1868.

“ “ “ Senate 1880.

Dr. Henry Benton, Guilford, “ House 1871.

Dr. G. N. Snow, Saybrook, “ “ 1874.

Dr. Chester Johnson, Enfield, “ Senate 1874-5-6.

Dr. J. D. Clemens, Canaan, “ House 1876.

Dr. Wm. E. Hyde, Killingly, “ “ 1879.

Dr. Civilion Fones was elected Mayor of Bridgeport in 1886 ; re-elected in 1887.

#### MANUFACTURERS OF GOLD FOIL IN CONNECTICUT.

The first establishment for making gold foil, etc., was started in Hartford by Dr. Marcus Bull in the year 1812. Here Mr. Chas. Abby became an apprentice. Mr. Bull removed his business to Philadelphia in 1816, and in 1835 Mr. Abbey became his partner. Upon the retirement of Mr. Bull in 1839, Mr. Abbey took the business which is still successfully carried on under the name of Chas. Abbey & Son, Philadelphia, Penn. A Mr. Johnson carried on the business for a time in Hartford. Mr. Jas. H. Ashmead came to Hartford in 1834 and in 1846 admitted Mr. E. Hurlburt to a partnership. Mr. Hurlburt continued until 1864, when he retired and in company with Mr. John M. Ney, who had been an apprentice with the old firm, they started anew under the name of

E. Hurlburt & Co. From 1839 the old establishment of Jas. H. Ashmead & Son, has been in successful operation. It is now under the management of Mr. Robert H. Ashmead. This establishment is known all over the world for uniform good work and for nearly fifty years they have made the famous "Quarter Century Gold-foil."

J. M. Ney & Co., successors to Hurlburt & Ney, have gained a high reputation for their gold and tin-foil amalgam and the manufacture of gold and silver plate, solders, refining, etc.

---

#### DENTISTS BORN IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

**1804.** Dr. Horace H. Hayden was born in Windsor, Conn., in 1778. He commenced the practice of dentistry about 1804, later studied medicine and by invitation delivered a course of lectures on dentistry to the medical class in the Maryland University in 1825. He was one of the founders of the Baltimore Dental College and its first president, as well as first professor of the principles of dental science. As early as 1817 he advocated calling a national convention of dentists, but the organization of the American Society of Dental Surgeons was delayed until August, 1840, when Dr. Hayden was elected president, Dr. Solyman Brown the recording secretary, and Dr. J. Smith Dodge one of the examining board; all natives of Connecticut. This association was the first regularly organized dental association in this country. Dr. Brown, the secretary, in the American Journal of Dental Science, vol. 1, says of Dr. Hayden: "When he

shall have been forgotten as a dental practitioner and physiologist, he will be remembered by his professional successors as the father of the American Society of Dental Surgeons." Dr. Hayden was a frequent contributor to the literature of dentistry and medicine and also wrote a work on geology. He died Jan. 26th, 1844.

**1830.** Solyman Brown, A. M., D. D., M. D., D. D. S., was born in Litchfield, Conn., Nov. 17th, 1790. He graduated from Yale College in 1812. Commenced the study of dentistry about 1830. At his house in Park Place, New York City, Aug. 18th, 1840, the American Society of Dental Surgeons was organized. Dr. Brown was elected recording secretary. Dr. Brown published in 1835 "Dentalogia," a poem on the diseases of the teeth and their proper remedies. He was the publisher and managing editor of the American Journal of Dental Science in 1839, and during its first years of issue in New York, and in 1841 was given the honorary degree of doctor of dental surgery by the Baltimore Dental College. He died Feb. 13th, 1876.

**1827.** Dr. J. Smith Dodge was born in Connecticut in 1806, removed to New York and commenced to practice dentistry in 1827. He was in continuous practice for sixty years, and was one of the founders of the New York College of Dentistry.

**1813-66.** Dr. John S. Clark, born in Brooklyn, Conn., in 1813; graduated in medicine; later studied dentistry and practiced in St. Louis, Mo., for a number of years. Removed in 1850 to New Orleans and while there published a magazine called the "Dental Obturator." Dr. Clark published in his magazine his method of preparing gold and tin-foil in the shape of cylinders for filling teeth, and he is credited as the first writer to give full

instruction and advice to the profession to learn and adopt that manner of operating. He returned to St. Louis in 1865 and died in 1866.

**1817-90.** Dr. W. A. Bronson was born in Connecticut in 1817; educated in Yale College; received the medical degree in 1845, later studied dentistry and in 1845 commenced to practice in New York City. He was one of the founders of the New York Odontological Society, and for some time its President. He died Aug. 20, 1890.

**1825.** Dr. Ebenezer Merritt was born in Redding, Conn., Jan. 13th, 1795. He received a common school education and at about twenty years of age commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Allen of Salem, Mass. He graduated at the Castleton Medical College, Vermont. Not liking the practice of medicine he went to Philadelphia and studied dentistry with a French dentist whose name is unknown. In 1825 he located in Pittsburgh Pa., and in 1828 commenced the manufacture of porcelain teeth. Dr. Chas. Merritt went to Pittsburgh in 1830 and found his uncle using the mallet in filling teeth with soft gold-foil made by Mr. Bull of Philadelphia. He used the mallet only in condensing the surface of the filling. Dr. Joseph C. Merritt, a student in the New York College of Dentistry in 1867, carried the original mallet to the office of Dr. Wm. H. Atkinson and he assured him that without a doubt his uncle was the first to use the mallet in dentistry.

Dr. Granville Merritt was born in Redding, Conn., July 19th, 1809. In 1829 he went to Pittsburgh and commenced the study of dentistry with his uncle and assisted in the manufacture of porcelain teeth. They succeeded in making some very creditable teeth but upon the death of Granville Merritt at the age of twenty-six, Dr. E. Merritt gave up manufacturing teeth.

**1819-1838.** Dr. C. A. Kingsbury was born in East Windsor, Conn., in 1819. Commenced the study of dentistry in 1838. He studied with Dr. N. Bevins in Trenton, N. J., and later with a Mr. Charles Houpt of Philadelphia in special dental mechanics. He also received instruction from Dr. Horace H. Hayden in Baltimore and from his cousin, Dr. Horace Wells of Hartford, the discoverer of anæsthesia. Dr. Kingsbury early in his practice experimented with and applied the use of electricity as a therapeutic agent for the relief from pain in dental operations. He was among the first to make use of this agent, and in many cases with satisfactory results. He was one of the founders of the Philadelphia Dental College, and was the professor of physiology and operative dentistry for several years; later emeritus professor and vice-president of the board of trustees. He was a member of many dental societies and contributed many articles to the "Dental Cosmos." He died October, 1891.

**1820-58.** Dr. Cyrenius O. Cone was born in East Haddam, Sept. 22nd, 1820. He was a student with Dr. Solyman Brown of New York in 1841, and later practiced his profession in Massachusetts, notably in the towns of Edgartown, Falmouth and Chatham, in the years 1842-43-44. In the fall of 1844 he attended lectures at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery and graduated in 1845. He then located in Georgetown, Ky., where he practiced with marked success until the fall of 1846, when he returned to Baltimore to accept the position of professor of mechanical dentistry in the college he graduated from the year previous. Dr. Cone was elected a member of the Maryland Historical Society in 1849, and he received the degree of M. D. from the Baltimore Medical College in 1857. Dr. Cone was the

pioneer professor of mechanical dentistry in the Baltimore Dental College. He was a clear, forceful writer and an interesting lecturer. These duties in addition to the demands of a large office practice early overtaxed his strength; his health failing he died of consumption April 1st, 1858, aged 38 years.

**1851.** Dr. Chas. E. Francis, born in Hartford, Conn. He went to New York in 1845, studied medicine for a time with Dr. Covert, and was a student of dentistry with Dr. Edward Barlow for four years. He commenced practice in New York in 1851; attended a partial course of lectures in the University Medical College, N. Y., and afterwards graduated from the Penn. Dental College; later was given the degree of M. D. S. by the Board of Regents of the N. Y. University. Dr. Francis was one of the founders of the New York Odontological Society and one of the founders of the New York College of Dentistry; was President of the Odontological, 1st District, and New York State Societies, and was elected honorary member of the Conn. State Dental Association in 1864 and of many other Societies in the country. He was clinical lecturer for years in the Philadelphia Dental College, and at the present time is one of the professors in the dental department of the University of Buffalo, N. Y.



Was it a *mistake* when Dr. S. G. Perry of New York intimated that the reason George Washington "could not tell a lie" was on account of the faulty articulation of his artificial teeth? It certainly would be a mistake to finish this history without giving the



"Father of His Country" a place in this record, for the following letter tells us that his *preferred* dentist, Mr. John Greenwood, had a residence for awhile somewhere in Connecticut previous to 1795 :\*

MOUNT VERNON, Jan. 6, 1795.

SIR.—Your letter of the 28th, ult., with the parcel that accompanied it, came safe to hand. I feel obliged to you for your attention to my request and for the directions you have given me. Enclosed you will find bank notes for fifteen dollars which I shall be glad to hear have got safe to your hands. If you should return to Connecticut I should be glad to be advised of it and to what place, as I shall always prefer your services to those of any other in the line of your present profession.

I am sir, your very humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

The many anxious dentists who have wrestled with the question as to the status of dentistry for many years past, are referred to this letter in which President Washington, "first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countryman," seems also to have been first in the recognition of dentistry as a profession.



In closing this record, Connecticut can proudly remind the dental profession of to-day, that :—

The first president of the first established dental college in the world, the first professor of the principles of dental science and the first president of the American Society of Dental Surgeons, was a Connecticut man—Dr. Horace H. Hayden.

---

\*History of Dental and Oral Science in America, page 11.



That "Hill's Stopping," a preparation of inestimable value for filling frail and sensitive teeth, was introduced by Dr. Asa Hill of Norwalk, Conn.

The use of the mallet by Dr. Ebenezer Merritt (said by Dr. Atkinson to be the first to use it in dentistry) who was among the first to make porcelain teeth successfully.

The application of the central cavity to dental plates, thereby demonstrating the great value of atmospheric pressure in dentistry, by Mr. Levi Gilbert of New Haven.

The surgical treatment of "Pyorrhœa Alveolaris," as demonstrated by Dr. J. M. Riggs of Hartford before the Connecticut Valley Dental Society.

THIS STATE JUSTLY CLAIMS THE HONOR OF GIVING TO THE WORLD THE GREAT BLESSING OF ANÆSTHESIA, DISCOVERED AND DEMONSTRATED DEC. 11, 1844, BY DR. HORACE WELLS OF HARTFORD.

First in educational influence and above all first in the practical personal blessings and comfort bestowed on mankind Connecticut leads all nations in her contributions to dental progress.







M

Accession no. YUL tr.

Author McManus:  
Notes on the  
history of  
anaesthesia.

Call no.  
ANESTHESIA  
III:18a

